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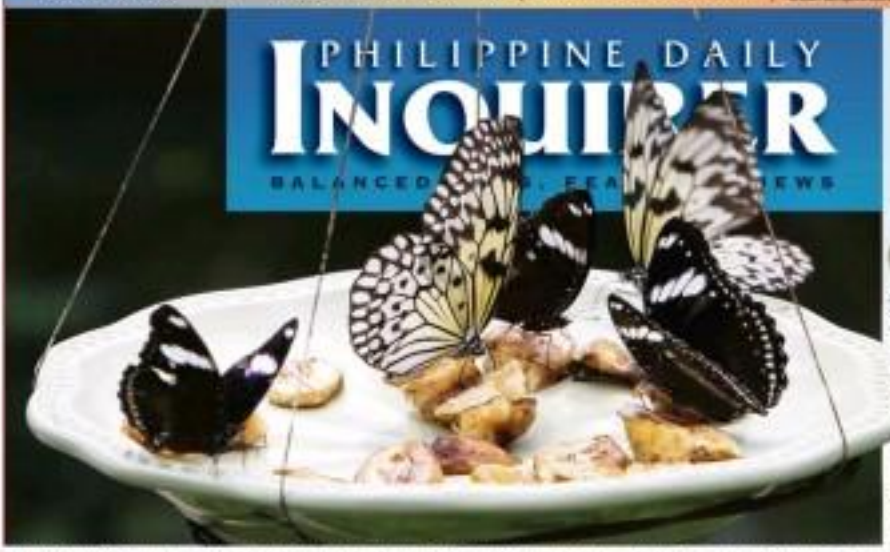
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED . . . FEARLESS NEWS



BUTTERFLY EFFECT Flowers are their nourishment of choice but fresh banana slices on a hanging plate are on the menu for these Lexiarane and Bolina butterflies at the Butterfly Garden of the Rainforest Park in Pasig City. LYN RILLON

ALL SET TO GO Inquirer publisher Gani Yambot, with his coat slung on his shoulder, takes one last look. JOAN BONDOC

Ms Universe once saved Gani's life

By Margie Moran-Floirendo
Contributor

IT WAS sometime in 1968 when I was a public relations consultant for the opening of Fairways and Bluewater Resort at Newport, Boracay, when I first met Dajonisio publisher Imagmi "Gani" Yambot. My boss, Mike Toledo and I, were hosting the International Publishers Association Congress with the late Miss Solinen as its chair.

Gani, a delegate for the Philippines, was quiet and unassuming—and perhaps the only sober man at the event. He was the only one who did not dance with me, as I was the only woman in the welcome party that evening.

Early the next day, as the fisher-

MISS UNIVERSE A20

CJ: I rebuffed P-Noy bid for truth body

He also claims he junked 'term-sharing' with Carpio

By Marlon Ramos

CHIEF Justice Renato Corona yesterday said President Aquino discussed with him shortly after his inaugural a plan to set up the Philippine Truth Commission, but that he told the latter if he had evidence against wrongdoing this should be pursued by the judiciary in accordance with the law and the Constitution.

Corona also revealed in a radio interview that before talk of his impeachment surfaced last year, Sen. Teofisto Guingona III, an administration stalwart, attempted to convince him to enter into a "term-sharing" agreement with Senate Associate Justice Antonio Carpio but that he rejected this.

"I told him I was appointed to a specific term. The term-sharing was not envisioned (in the Constitution). When I told him it was not legally possible, he dropped the idea," Corona said in the hourlong program "Kapanabula" over dwGE on his second day of "radio-hopping" ahead of his defense presentation beginning on Monday in the Senate impeachment tribunal.

Corona said that Mr. Aquino met with him shortly after he was sworn in on June 2010 and asked him about a plan to create a "truth commission" to go

CLAIMS REVEALED / A19

Impeachment trial delaying 3 banking bills in Senate / A13

THE HUNTS STORY! Sister Flory Basa looks outside the chapel of St. Joseph Convent in Cavite province where she is staying. The Franciscan nun is one of the original stockholders of Basa-Guidote Enterprise Inc.

90-year-old nun willing to testify

By Cheena Yu
Rappler Inquirer

GENERAL MARIANO ALVAREZ, Cavite—God willing, 90-year-old Sister Flory Basa yesterday said she would testify in the impeachment trial of her nephew-in-law, Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona.

"I have to wait what the Lord tells me. I have to consider my health," Sister Flory said in the interview at the convent of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary here. "I'm not your typical 60 or 70 year old nun. I am 90. I wonder when I'm under attack."

At the convent, Sister Flory moves around slowly. She does not use a cane or a walker, and wears neither a hearing aid nor eyeglasses. She does not take maintenance medicines, but goes for regular medical checkups to monitor her health.

Sister Flory is the aunt of Corona's wife, Cristina, and the only surviving original stockholder of Basa Guidote Enterprise Inc. (BGE), a family-owned company that Corona identified as the real owner of the funds ($12.6 million) he withdrew from

DYNASTY CLOSE A20

Ana Basa denies Corona rap: Baseless / A20

De Lima on CJ media blitz: Unbecoming

By Marlon Ramos

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday lambasted Chief Justice Renato Corona for "acting like a politician" by embarking on a media blitz to hit back at his critics, describing his move as "conduct unbecoming" of the country's top jurist.

"He's not supposed to be a politician. He is the highest official of the judiciary, which ought to be completely nonpartisan," De Lima told reporters.

The justice secretary said Corona's position required him to be "devoid of any political and partisan elements or personalities."

"I share with some observations that it was really unbecoming of a Chief Justice," she said, adding that his "accusations and behavior show that he has

DE LIMA A19

Defense moves to block bid on dollar accounts

By Christian V. Esguerra

CHIEF JUSTICE Renato Corona wants the Senate to suspend the impeachment trial if the prosecution panel would be given the option to present additional evidence on his dollar accounts.

Defense lawyers are set to argue their case when the trial resumes on Monday despite the prosecutors' stand/resist

DEFENSE A20

Corona wife seen to 'connect the dots' on bank deposits / A12

Sy leads 5 Pinoys in Forbes' richest list

By Doris C. Dumlao

SIX BUSINESS tycoons from the Philippines led by SM group patriarch Henry Sy made it to Forbes Magazine's 2012 list of richest people on the planet.

The list includes Lucio Tan, Andrew Tan, Enrique Razon Jr., Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. and Roberto Ongpin. It was the first time for Cojuangco and Ongpin to join the roster of the world's billionaires (in US dollar terms).

SY LEADS A20

Mexican still world's richest man / A20

WHAT'S INSIDE

NEWS

Witness vs police officers in kidnap-slay of a woman seeks protection / A2

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Ongpin hits gov't move to pin him down / A3

Ombudsman: No more plunder rap vs Danding / A13

SBMA tells P-Noy: No to coal plant / A10

BUSINESS

GOCC subsidies up 156% / B1

Enrile, 88, set for killer sked but for toothache

By Christian V. Esguerra

SENATOR-JUDGES have expressed concern that seven weeks of the impeachment trial might take a toll on the health of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, the presiding officer.

But other than a bad tooth, the 88-year-old Enrile has shown no signs of slowing down, now that the proceedings are entering their crucial phase next week.

ENRILE A13

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

2-D
6 2 2
4 3 1
2 2 8

SUERTRES
8 8 6
1 1 1
3 2 3

6/42 LUZ-MIN-MIN
4 12 17 22 23 42
P6,989,457.60

SUPER LOTTO 6/49
9 16 30 34 45 49
P34,239,387.60

LEA NG KIDNAP-SLAY

Witness vs cops seeks protection

By DJ Yap
and Nathaniel R. Meliton

A FORMER policeman who tagged three police officers, one of them the former spokesperson of the National Capital Region police, in the murder of a Chinese-Filipino businessman, is applying for protection under the government's state witness program.

Reginal Regidor Santiago, 39, is seeking benefits under the Witness Protection Program of the Department of Justice (DOJ) after he blew the lid off the abduction and murder of Lea Angeles Ng. The woman disappeared in January and was found dead in a septic tank in a Laguna warehouse on Feb. 25.

In a sworn statement, Santiago pointed to Supt. Rommel Miranda and Police Officers 1 Cholito Santos Jr. and Alfred Sigmap as directly involved in the crime.

The PNP National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said it was up to the DOJ to decide whether Santiago would become a state witness. Miranda once served as spokesperson of the NCRPO.

Prime suspect, too

Supt. Benito Ococo, the current NCRPO spokesperson, said Santiago was also a prime suspect in the case which would be considered in his application to become a state witness.

"What I know from the law is if you're applying as a state witness, you need to have the least participation in the case," Ococo said.

"I don't know how [DOJ] will handle Santiago's application, but we will respect whatever decision will be rendered," he said.

"We will let the case run its course through the justice system," he said.

The family of Ng has sought the help of Justice Secretary Leila de Lima amid fears of retribution as those involved in the case are police officers in active duty.

Meeting recalled

In his affidavit, Santiago said he, Miranda, Santos and Sigmap were in a meeting to conspire the abduction at a fast food restaurant in a subdivision in Quezon City on Jan. 20.

At the meeting place, Santiago said he saw Miranda in the passenger seat of a white Toyota Prado beside Ng, who was lying still.

Santiago said Miranda knew Ng because the police officer worked on the style in Ng's auto collision in Ng, according to Santiago's affidavit, was killed when the said Miranda fought over a P15-million collection that Miranda allegedly refused to turn over to Ng.

Santiago said he took part in disposing of Ng's body with Santos and Sigmap.

In an interview with reporters, Santiago quoted Miranda as saying in his car beside the body of Ng inside the Prado: "I've killed him already. You take care of dumping him. Just don't sell."

They took off in Ng's Prado and dropped off Miranda somewhere on C-5 Road in Taguig City. They continued driving to Laguna where they found a place to dump Ng's body.

Money as motive

Senior Supt. Isagani Nerez, head of the PNP's Anti-Kidnapping Group (AKG), said the motive for the killing could be money. Ng, said Nerez, was involved in trucking and moneylending. He did not, however, say if Miranda was moonlighting for Ng.

Nerez said Miranda was restricted to camp at PNP headquarters in Camp Crame. Santos and Sigmap are in the custody of the San Pedro police office after they turned themselves in, Nerez said.

Charges had been filed by the AKG against the three police officers. Santiago is under the custody of AKG.

Before Santiago's arrest, he, Santos and Sigmap were captured on CCTV boarding Ng's Prado with license plate No. "ZLS 777" that was abandoned at the parking lot of Wilcon Mart in Cartimar, Cavite.

Ongpin hits gov't move to pin him down

By Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin yesterday urged the Sandiganbayan to acquit him on racketeering-type of civil liability in the operations of the so-called Ilocandia-owned bank in the 1980s, as he challenged the government's claim the decision was defective.

In an opposition filed by his lawyer yesterday, Ongpin said the government's contention that the anti-graft court's ruling one hundred days too early, before several defendants could present their evidence, did not apply to him since he had finished presenting his own evidence separately.

Ongpin noted that the Sandiganbayan Special Second Division had acted in order in 2009 saying that his case had been submitted for decision.

His undefendants in the civil case were the late Senator Ferdinand Marcos and the latter's right-hand man Fabian Ver, former first lady Imelda Marcos, and Ver's children Irwin Ver, Bruce Ver, Wyeba Ver, Helena Ver Tinsay and Nalda Ver Bonnevardo. Also charged were Felix Carlucot, Jimmy Chua, Co Pek, Catalina Cua, Sally Chua, Bayer Up, Benito Peñalosa, Ho Lin, Wilson Chua, Baltazar Diego, Adrian Steelhauler, Sally Sycuip and Vicente Jumeo-Up.

The Bicolano socialite both served as an underground dollar mailer in the 1980s, and several officials of the Marcos administration allegedly manipulated the trade in dollars through it.

Ongpin also opposed the government's plea for the antigraft court to reopen the case and receive additional evidence.

PH still on US list of countries with pirated, fake goods

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE PHILIPPINES remains on the United States Trade Representative's (USTR) "watch list" of nations where pirated and counterfeit goods are readily available, according to the US Department of State.

In a report posted on the website of the US Embassy in Manila, the state department said the USTR "retained the Philippines on its Special 301 Watch List for 2011." Manila was also on the list in 2010.

The USTR "lauded recently passed legislation aimed at illegal video recording in movie theaters and Philippine efforts to enforce bans on pirated and counterfeit goods."

The Washington, DC-based agency, however, "lamented inherent weaknesses within the judiciary system that lead to limited enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights laws," noted the state department.

The USTR...edicle is responsible for developing and coordinating American international trade, commodities and direct investment policies—expressed concern over the ineffective enforcement of intellectual property rights in the Philippines.

Aside from the Philippines, other countries on the USTR watch list of havens of fake clothing, shoes, watches and handbags include Malaysia, Bahrain, Brunei, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Romania, Spain and Ukraine.

On the other hand, 11 nations are on the USTR's "priority watch list"—China, Russia, Algeria, Argentina, Canada, Chile, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand and Venezuela.

Can the blood of the son treat the mother's cancer?

---Bio-immuno cell therapy creating a new era of cancer treatment.

Dr. explains Ms. Janet Dacon after the administration of the latest blood-based treatment on cancer, showing blood for the destruction of disease.

In June of 2011, Ms. Janet Dacon was constantly being hugged by back pain and coughing. From the previous, she went to Manila for a PET/CT scan and it was here where the disease was discovered. Lung adenocarcinoma. Her cancer was treated at the Guangzhou Medical Cancer Hospital after her husband came across an advertisement in the newspaper regarding the new technology of immunally invasive therapy in the treatment of cancer. At Guangzhou, Ms. Janet Dacon underwent a thorough examination. The medical plan consisted of minimally invasive therapy, consultation and bio-immune cell therapy. The treatment was a success such that with the third follow-up treatment, her PET/CT scan and tumor marker yielded positive results: no more abnormalities and the tumor had disappeared.

With the obliteration of her cancer, one may wonder why Ms. Janet Dacon would need another bio-immune cell therapy? Why should the blood he donate have her son for his treatment?

Guangzhou Medical Cancer Hospital chief specialist Feng Xiaoyi explains that the human body has immune cells that eliminate sporadic cancer cells. Yet, given that frail, cancer cells are very clever in script cancer stem cells are able to disguise, resistant bacteria or viruses which stays even after medication. These cancer cells multiply like mushrooms and time becomes. And while surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy can destroy the tumor, a complete eradication of all cancerous cells is an impossibility. Consequently, relapses and metastases often follow hence bio-immune cell therapy must come in. It should be noted that after radiotherapy and chemotherapy, the patient's body still actively destroys the remaining cancer cells. For some patients, their immune system is capable and sufficient enough to control the cancer, minimizing recurrence and metastasis. These patients are the lucky ones who have less to worry. But the majority of the patients who have low immune systems, they should exert more effort to increase the number of their immune cells for them to effectively remove the cancer cells.

In the case of Ms. Dacon, the recommendation is to get the blood from her son. This is so because a blood donor from a healthy person, protected by from an immediate family member are resistant to the somatic immune cells compared to the somatic immune cells of the patient which were damaged from the chemotherapy and radiotherapy. While the use of a healthy person's immune cells, the cells are able to duplicate faster. Tested a healthy person having bio-immune cell therapy is 20 times better and more advantageous than the auto-immune cell therapy. Meanwhile, the auto immune cell therapy is 10 times better than the natural immunity. Quite amazingly, a healthy person with reduced immunity and who gets bio-immune cell therapy gets up to 100 folds of immunity system.

Those tested to novel breakup, Prof. Feng Xiaoyi laments that bio-immune cell therapy has yet to reach the consciousness level of many people. Based on his experience, he receives patients in advanced and critical conditions, patients with recurrence, and even those who are near death for treatment. And although remedies and treatments are given, the previous adds that an early treatment is always better for a far more excellent and satisfying result.

If you have experience such matters concerning cancer treatments and has inquiries kindly call 8221222, 0919-4642010, 0922-8863333 or visit Unit A-1102, 11th Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Further www.amanocure.com

Conditional arraignment for Dichaves

BUSINESSMAN Jaime Dichaves may have to be conditionally arraigned in his plunder case if he wants to leave the country, according to a Sandiganbayan official.

Dichaves is a cronies of former President Joseph Estrada's plunder case but has denied conspiring with the deposed chief executive to amass ill-gotten wealth.

A bold departure, sources have termed against the businessman, who has a pending motion asking the court to allow him to travel to Hong Kong and China later this month.

He has not been arraigned on the plunder case filed earlier against him after the Sandiganbayan Special Division ordered the Office of the Ombudsman to first complete its preliminary investigation of the case.

The court had also questioned his travel motion, although it has not lifted the hold departure order against him.

Sandiganbayan legal division chief Mary Beth Fortes said that if Dichaves wants to leave the country temporarily the court may direct him to execute a bond as safeguard. In the event that he fails to return and probable cause is found against him, the court could proceed with his case in absentia.

In case he is granted of plunder in the Ombudsman's preliminary investigation, Dichaves' arraignment would become moot, Fortes said.

Dichaves' motion for permission to travel is scheduled to be heard today at the Sandiganbayan.

Former earlier said that the Joint Whistle bomb account, which was identified to his, was actually Dichaves' account.

Anita E. Kuizon

Dinner dance for women

THE Philippine Association of University Women, University of the Philippines chapter (PAUW-UP) will celebrate the Women's month with a dinner dance tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at the UP Executive House, in the UP campus, Diliman, Quezon City.

During the affair, a raffle will be conducted and the prizes will consist of a free airline ticket, oil painting, a cell phone, and others.

Proceeds of the affair will be used for the additional construction of the PAUW-UP Child Study Center to accommodate pupils attending nursery classes at the PAUW-UP Betty Go Belmonte (PAUW) school at Pook Diquiles.

The PAUW will be used as a school for the specialized differently-gifted children.

For more information, contact Ms Cathy Ang at Tel. 928-0849 or 928-5241, Extension Phone, UP Diliman, Quezon City.

TASTES of THAILAND

Pasea Uno presents a renowned chef from the legendary Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok

From 12 to 21 March, Thai master chef Sumet Sumpachaisyarorn comes to town to delight you with freshly prepared sumptuous dishes for Pasea Uno's buffet.

What's more, you could win a Bangkok holiday for two, inclusive of three nights' hotel stay.

Cooking Class with Chef Sumet
Learn Thai cooking from the master. Saturday, 17 March, 9 a.m.

For details and reservations, call 750 8888.

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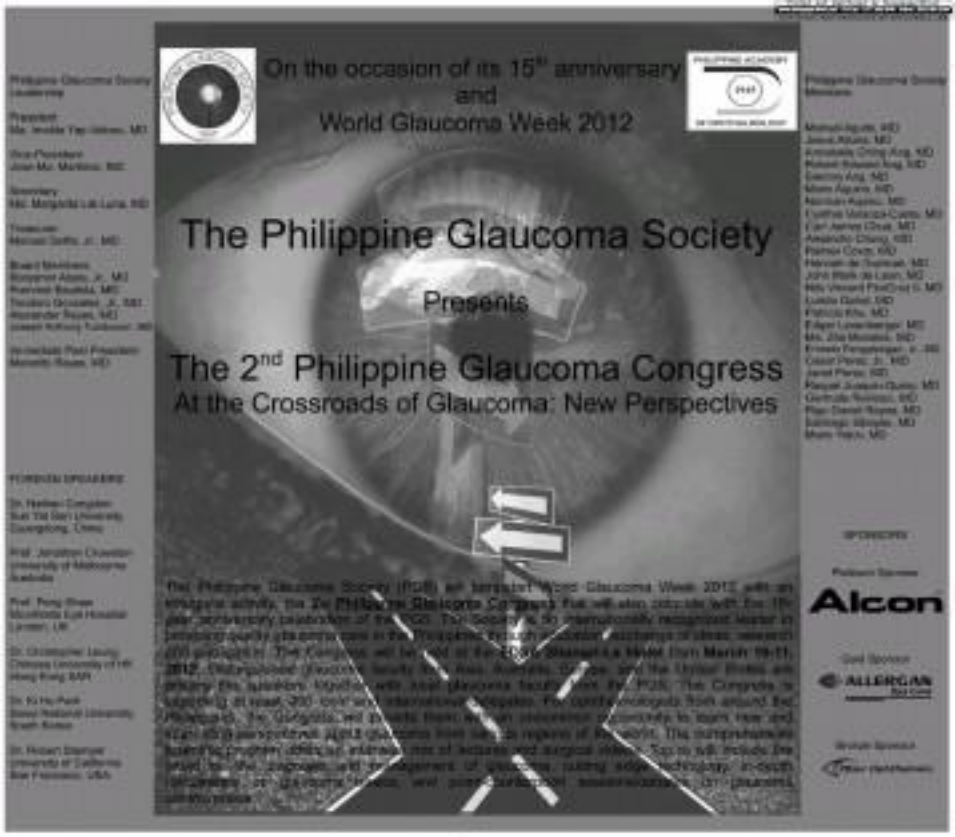

GLAUCOMA FACTS

What is glaucoma?
Glaucoma is a group of diseases that cause gradual destruction of the optic nerve. The optic nerve is the cable that connects the eye to the brain. Optic nerve damage causes shrinking of the visual field and eventually blindness.

Why is glaucoma such a serious eye condition?
It can lead to PERMANENT, IRREVERSIBLE BLINDNESS.

How big a problem is glaucoma?
Glaucoma is the 2nd leading cause of blindness in the world. An estimated 66.8 million people worldwide have glaucoma with 6.8 million of them blind in both eyes. In the Philippines, glaucoma is the
3rd leading cause of blindness in both eyes and is the leading cause of irreversible blindness of both eyes.

Who are at risk for glaucoma?
People with elevated intraocular pressure (eye pressure), family history of glaucoma, age over 40, previous eye injury, chronic steroid use, diabetes mellitus, Chinese ancestry. These persons should have themselves screened for glaucoma by an ophthalmologist (EyeMD).

What are the symptoms of glaucoma?
Most cases of glaucoma have NO SYMPTOMS.A small percentage of cases of glaucoma have episodes of eye pain, blurred vision, redness,headache, nausea or vomiting, and seeing rainbows around lights. In developed countries around 50% of glaucoma patients do not know they have the disease. This figure may go up to 90% in developing countries.

How is glaucoma diagnosed?
An ophthalmologist examines the optic nerve and measures eye pressure. Tests to measure the field of vision and analyze the optic nerve are also used.

Can glaucoma be cured?
There is NO CURE for glaucoma. Visual damage caused by glaucoma is permanent. However there are treatments that can stop or delay its progression if detected early enough. The earlier the detection the greater the chance of preserving sight.

How is glaucoma treated?
Depending on the type and stage of glaucoma it can be treated with eyedrops, laser or surgery. Since there is no cure for glaucoma, lifelong monitoring of the condition is needed.

Glaucoma Lay Fora and Screening Activities

Countrywide glaucoma awareness events have been organized in the month of March by the Philippine Glaucoma Society and the members of the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology. This is in cooperation with the Philippine Glaucoma Foundation and leading industry partners Alcon Philippines, Allergan Eye Care and Pfizer Ophthalmics. Contact your local eye doctors for details regarding these events.

Participating Sites

METRO MANILA
Manila - Philippine General Hospital, Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Eye Referral Center, Santo Tomas University Hospital, UERM Memorial Medical Center, Manila Doctors Hospital, Hospital of the Infant Jesus, Ospital ng Maynila **Quezon City** - East Avenue Medical Center, St. Luke's Medical Center, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Veterans Memorial Medical Center, NKP Medical Center, United Doctors Medical Center, FEU-NRMF Medical Center **Makati** - Makati Medical Center, Ospital ng Makati **Pasig** - The Medical City, Pasig City General Hospital **San Juan** - Cardinal Santos Medical Center **Valenzuela** - Fatima Medical Center
NORTHERN LUZON
Ilocos - Ilocos Training Regional Medical Center, Mariano Marcos Hospital, Region 1 Medical Center, Gov. Roque Ablan Hospital **La Union** - La Union Medical Center **Baguio** – Baguio General Hospital **Pangasinan** - Pangasinan Provincial Hospital, St Lucy Eye Center, Urdaneta General Hospital, Pangasinan East Eye Center, Blessed Family Hospital **Nueva Ecija** - Paulino J Garcia Medical Center, Nueva Ecija Eye and Laser Center **Tarlac** - Tarlac Provincial Hospital **Pampanga** - Jose B Lingad Hospital, Ospital ng Angeles **Bataan** – Bataan Eye Clinic, Mariveles Eye Clinic
SOUTHERN LUZON
Cavite - DLSU Medical Center, Perpetual Help Hospital **Laguna** - Asia Pacific Eye Center, Calamba Eye Center **Batangas** - Lipa Medix Hospital, St. Vita Medical Center, Mary Mediatrix Medical Center, CP Reyes Hospital **Quezon** - Mt. Carmel General Hospital
VISAYAS
Iloilo - Corazon Locsin Montelibano Medical Center, Western Visayas Medical Center, Ramon Tabiana Memorial Hospital **Cebu** – Cebu Velez Hospital, Cebu City Medical Center, Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, Cebu Doctors Medical Center
MINDANAO
Davao - Davao Doctors Hospital, Southern Philippines Medical Center, Davao Regional Hospital **Sultan Kudarat** - Sultan Kudarat Eye Center **Zamboanga** - Tzu Chi Eye Center **Cagayan De Oro** - Northern Mindanao Medical Center **Misamis** - Medina Hospital **Surigao** - Surigao Health Specialists

DepEd consultants questioned by COA

By Lala B. Salcedo

THE COMMISSION on Audit (COA) has questioned the Department of Education's hiring of consultants in 2010, saying it was "irregular and unnecessary" since the functions they performed could have been done by the DepEd's regular staff.

In its 2010 report on the department released only recently, the COA said the DepEd's Office of the Secretary (Osec) used the Baguio Teachers Camp (BTC) had hired consultants for P14.289 million and P360,000, respectively, despite a moratorium on.

The audit agency said the Osec entered into a contract with 10 consultants whose monthly rates ranged from P17,500 to P50,000. The consultants included 10 private lawyers who were hired without the necessary approval of the Office of the Solicitor General, it noted.

Not needed

It found that the consultants performed the functions of supervising administrative officials, legislative liaison operations, grievance and legal assistance, despite all the openings in these positions having been filled except for one liaison specialist and one attorney.

"Thus, there was available personnel who could perform the designated functions, negating the necessity of hiring," the COA said.

The auditor noted as well that 21 consultants performed ordinary functions that could have been done by DepEd employees. It said accomplishment reports showed the consultants prepared documents for approval by office heads and other assignments, but these were not therefore included in the definition of consultant under the National Budget Circular.

No bidding

Records also showed that negotiated bidding was conducted in procurement of consultancy services, it said.

As for the Baguio Teachers Camp, the COA said it entered into two consultancy contracts, but the functions the consultants performed were neither highly technical, proprietary nor confidential in nature. These were also not functions in which owner and confidence with the primary considerations.

"Further, the accomplishment reports of the consultants showed that most of the services rendered were not in accordance with the activities specified in their contracts, which ensure appeared to be ordinary and routine in nature and could be performed by available in-house personnel," it said.

The contracts were procured through negotiated procurement.

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Traders' groups offer 'win-win' solution to mining

By Dazlet L. Lucas

LEADERS of the country's largest business organizations yesterday offered a "win-win solution" to groups opposed to the mining industry, while urging the Aquino administration not to make dramatic policy changes in what is described as the country's "already well-established" mining law.

In a joint statement, the business leaders invited antimining groups to help ensure that mining firms were operating responsibly and were caring for the environment.

"What is needed is stricter enforcement and monitoring, not chaos," said the statement issued by the Management Association of the Philippines, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Philippine Exporters Confederation. "We can all help in achieving this."

The joint communiqué came days after a nondescript farmers' advocacy held a pro-coal antimining advocacies pressed their agenda in an effort to scrap the policy of the administration, which is in the final stages of formulating a national mining policy.

The new policy—to be contained in a Palace-issued executive order—is being awaited anxiously by the local mining industry, foreign investors and antimining groups, all of whom are lobbying heavily for better terms for their respective issues.

"If government really wants to encourage long-term and recurrent investments, it must be careful in making substantive changes to what is already a well-crafted mining law to ensure that the Philippine investment environment is competitive with other mineral-rich countries," the business groups said.

"It is more important for government to disinvest, implement existing policies that encourage long-awaited investments," they added.

In the statement, the groups urged the government to strengthen the organizational and financial capacity of government mining and environment protection regulatory agencies to effectively enforce mining laws and evaluate and monitor mining activities.

They also asked the government to provide these agencies with the mandate that will allow them to compel small-scale miners to comply with environmental protection laws and to ensure that only Filipino citizens were allowed to do small-scale mining.

At the same time, they urged the administration to facilitate the processing of pending mining and exploration permits and applications of legitimate investors, and move to harmonize national laws and policies on mining with conflicting local ordinances.

More problems from plastic ban

THE ban on plastic has increased the use of paper, causing bigger environmental issues involving the cutting of trees, and the use of more water and electricity for its production compared to plastic, according to the plastic industry.

"One ton of paper requires the cutting of 17 trees; more a ton for plastic. One supermarket paper bag uses one gallon of clean water, which is all that is needed to make 136 plastic bags. Paper uses as much as five times more energy than a comparable plastic production," Cesario Lao, spokesperson for the plastic industry, said in the press statement.

Lao's group is asking for a scientific and enlightened approach to plastic, which he said has been demonized to the point that people now wrongly believe that paper is more environmentally friendly.

"It is not. This is the reason developed countries are taking a balanced approach to. People are given a choice between plastic and paper because both are needed, and have their pros and cons," he said.

He added: "If the problem is flooding, a plastic ban is definitely not the solution. The floods during tropical storm "Ondoy," "Pedring," "Sendong" etc were caused not by plastic but by global warming which has generated more violent typhoons and unusually heavy rainfall."

From assuming that plastic products were to be blamed for recent floods, he said the solution is still not a ban on plastic but in changing people's ways of disposing waste.

By banning plastic, Lao said local governments are in effect making global warming worse because more paper means less trees and therefore more carbon dioxide in the air; less water for people to use; and more power to be generated which produces more greenhouse gases.

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It's Chavit against the rest of Solid North on sin tax issue

By Gil Cabacungan

LAWMAKERS led by local government officials from the tobacco-producing Ilocos region vowed to be a solid bloc on the issues raised Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson as he worked that he was supporting the government's move to increase taxes on cigarettes after decades of blocking higher taxes.

Singson said that he would hold an unequivocal meeting with members of the Northern Luzon Alliance next week to explain his stand supporting the Department of Finance's proposed excise taxes in order to avoid the issues not known for opposition currently being debated in Congress.

Real dangers

Singson said he planned to call local leaders in the NLA about the "real dangers" of the monopoly situation in the cigarette business when Philip Morris merged and took over Fortune Tobacco Corp.

Singson claimed that since the two merged two years ago, prices of tobacco have gone down from P82 per kilo in 2009 to P78 per kilo in 2010 and P77 in 2011. Singson said that he requested prices to continue going down since there was only one buyer left for their tobacco and farmers have practically no choice but to sell at the price dictated by the monopoly buyer.

Singson's stand was hailed up by League of Provinces of the Philippines president Ormoc Mayor Eufrocino Codilla who recently drew his support to House Bill No. 5727 authored by Cong. Rep. Joseph V. S. Ejercito which has now members of the NLA as co-author.

Unfortunate

"It is unfortunate that Governors Ersali and Singson would take statements even advising that they come from tobacco growing provinces and have tobacco farmers as their constituents, not to mention that their provinces are recipient of funding from their share of tobacco tax collections," said Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis R. Ellasus in a statement. "I am appealing to my fellow governors to consider the plight of at least 2.9 million tobacco farmers, workers and their dependents before supporting the House bill. What would happen to local tobacco farmers if we deprive them of their main livelihood?"

Espanto Gov. Alvarez T. Antonio warned that the sentiment were arising from the 5727 would unduly favor high-priced cigarette brands over less cigarette brands that buy local tobacco leaves.

La Union Gov. Manuel C. Ortega claimed that Ersali did not consult LPP members in making his statement.

MANILA WATER SERVICE UPGRADE IN MAKATI

East Zone customers residing in the following areas will briefly experience water service interruption when the Company undertakes the cutting and plugging of large water lines along EDSA (Northbound) near corner Kalayaan Avenue.

Schedule : 10:00 PM, Saturday, March 10, 2012, up to 4:00 AM, Sunday, March 11, 2012

Affected areas : Bel-Air Village (Phase 1-4), Urdaneta Village, Poblacion, Pinagkaisahan, Guadalupe Viejo, Palm Village, Ecology Village, Rockwell, Legaspi Village, Salcedo Village, San Lorenzo Village and Barangay Pio Del Pilar.

Manila Water Company is advising all residents of the said areas to store enough water to supply their needs during the interruption period.

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Manila Water

Nanganganlaga at Kinabukasan

Across the NATION

P-Noy told: No to Subic coal plant

By Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT —Residents, businessmen and officials of communities surrounding this economic zone have spoken, and the message is clear—no to a coal-fired power plant in Subic.

The plant, being pushed by a consortium of energy companies led by Aboitiz Power, Mariveles Electric Co. Investors and Taiwan Engen Corp., was rejected by three groups during a series of consultations held in December last year, officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) said.

Each report submitted to President Aquino this week, the SBMA, which completed the second acceptability process (SAP) on the proposed 600-megawatt coal-fired power plant of SP Energy Inc. (SPEI), the consortium's corporate vehicle, said the project was clearly rejected by stakeholders in the bay port.

"All seven the stakeholders groups that participated in the process were clear in rejecting the coal-fired [power plant] project while the green resource private shared their concerns on the deficiencies of the environmental impact assessment study used by the project proponent to secure the environmental compliance certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 2008," the report said.

At least 133 representatives of the six major stakeholder groups in the bay port—local governments, business location, tourism, fisheries, the port users, Subic Landowners and Free port workers—joined the SAP held from Dec. 7 to 8, SBMA representatives, however, were absent.

The SAP report said, "While each stakeholder group was generally well represented, certain groups were not present during the three-day series of consultations. Foremost and most noticeable was the absence of any representatives from BPH, the major proponent of the project. There was also no representation from the Subic Bay Transport Chamber of Commerce and the Council of Subic Tambobo."

Subic Raymund Cunningham, first vice president for business development of Aboitiz Power and member of SPEI's steering committee, said there was little opposition to the coal plant.

"If we are convinced that the overwhelming majority of people in this area do not want the project, we would go away," Cunningham said.

But the SAP report said "the overall persuasion of the participants [in the consultation process] was a clear aversion to the concept of an operational coal-fired power plant."

"Taken as a whole, their concerns ranged from environmental to health to economic and environmental factors," it said.

SBMA director Philip Cortes, who led the SAP for the agency, said the SBMA board would consider the views of the stakeholders as a reason to leave contracts and permits.

"The social acceptability process has made it clear that they are not welcome here," he said.

Representatives of local governments in Zambales and Bataan expressed apprehension in the lack of direct financial benefits to communities and the apparent health risks from the plant's operations.

The SAP report said it to put emphasis toward strong opposition to the project, noting the potential health risks "would be a strong deterrent to tourists' and environmentalists' factors."

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"They also criticized the project as violating the ecological and economic cards that the SBMA has been advocating since its founding," it said.

Anti-communities "exacerbate anxiety at the possibility of being affected by acid rain potentially triggered by the operations of the power plant," the report said.

"Their main contention was the potential contamination of their water supply and the degradation and eventual loss of ... rainforests and the contiguous water which are the primary sources of their livelihood," it said.

Fourteen critical business development assessed the power plant project due to its potential impact on the tourism industry in the free port.

Among other fears, they [said] toxic air and liquid discharge from the power plant would pose hazards to tourists in the area and to visit, diminish the viability of Subic Bay as a tourist destination, "the report said.

TOURISM harassers in Subic fear scenes like this will disappear if a coal-fired power plant in the free port pushes through.

Execs close tire melting plant amid health risks

OLONGAPO, Philippines—Environment officials have closed a tire producing bunker oil from melting tires, after receiving complaints from residents and nearby establishments over the operator's ill effects on public health.

Leonardo Claudio, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) director in Central Luzon, issued the cease-and-desist order against Bio-Eco Solution Technology Inc. in Barangay Tabing.

Claudio said the order would be lifted only if the firm complies with environmental laws it has violated.

He did not, however, specify the complaints the company has received or how long it has been in operation.

Bio-Eco, the said, recycles scrap tires through the pyrolysis method, where tires are melted inside a furnace for eight hours. The furnace uses wood and oil—materials for fuel.

After a two-hour cooling process, the furnace is opened to remove bunker oil but fuel, carbon black fumes are emitted by the machine.

Gov. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado, who joined Claudio and socioeconomic officials in sewing the order, said he sought the help of EMB to investigate Bio-Eco's operations after he received complaints from residents, and would impose fines if it was operating without an environmental compliance certificate and other permits from the Geographics government.

Alvarado described the company's operation as "very crude," and noted its location in the middle of residential and business area in Barangay Tabing.

He said employees of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority-Chanlic, whose building is near the Bio-Eco compound, and residents had been trying to stop the burning operations.

Nearby Bigaho, EMB senior environmental management specialist, said what the furnace emits is called "fugitive dust," which is almost toxic. Pagsolo said provided purchases Bio-Eco's products and services.

Carmela Reyes-Estrope, Inquirer Central Luzon

Pinay slain in Singapore big loss to Ilocos family

TOLOSO, Ilocos Sur—A day before she was found dead in a hotel in Singapore on March 4, Rosalyn Leda Viernes text her family. "Good morning. Ma'am" Inquirer text her message, unaware of her condition.

She called immediately (on March 5) to find out if we were able to have our new technology. She really cared for us," said Rosalyn's brother, Emmanuel.

Rosalyn and her boyfriend, Bangladesh national Shaheen Mahbub Imtiaz, were found dead from suicide inside the Fairmont Hotel in Singapore on Sunday night.

Rosalyn's mother, Matilde, said on Thursday that the family wanted to see the official police report that could explain the circumstances that led to her daughter's death.

Matilde said the family was invited to the Department of Foreign Affairs' regional consular office in San Fernando City, La Union, on Tuesday, where they were informed about her daughter's death.

"I broke down as soon as we were told about her death," Matilde said.

She said the family had no premonition about the tragedy, having just spoken to her daughter on Saturday.

Matilde said they had been scheduled to Lufthansa and have had telephone conversations with him before.

Rosalyn had been working as a maid in Singapore for six years. She left behind three children from a previous relationship. The children have been placed under their father's custody and were receiving financial support from Rosalyn, her relatives have said.

Lorenzo Rufino Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

BIR sues Pacquiao for incomplete tax papers

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Bureau of Internal Revenue has filed a complaint against world boxing icon and Sarangani Rep. Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao for alleged failure to submit complete tax records for the year 2010.

Pacquiao quickly denied he failed to avoid paying income taxes.

"I am not hiding anything," the boxer said. "Everything that I have to pay has been paid," he said.

Lucita Rodriguez, BIR deputy commissioner, said Pacquiao failed to heed summons issued by the BIR in Central Mindanao requiring him to explain his failure to submit complete documents for taxation.

Rodriguez said under the law, BIR regional directors are vested with quasi-judicial power, namely authority, among others, directing individuals or companies to open their tax records or books of account.

Rodriguez said the regional BIR office was just doing its job and the filing of the complaint at the city prosecutor's office in Koronadal City on March 1 was meant to compel Pacquiao to submit the documents required of him.

Rose Evangelio, a member of Pacquiao's congressional staff, told reporters that the house had not yet received a copy of the complaint.

Evangelio claimed that before the boxing champion left for Manila, he had directed his lawyers to push things up with the BIR.

According to Evangelio, the opposition wanted to run propaganda against Pacquiao's congressional bid. Pacquiao is running for Sarangani Governorship against Rep. Roy Cortes.

Pacquiao is on the list of the world's wealthiest athletes after earning hundreds of millions of dollars from his fights and endorsements. *Agaton P. Bonoc, Inquirer Mindanao*

War on illiteracy by soldiers unleashes unique weapon

By Delia T. Maller Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—Soldiers are waging war on illiteracy with the use of a unique weapon—shoe boxes.

The Southern Luzon Command on Feb. 28 launched "Project Shoebox" which seeks to send book-related supplies to children in some of the remotest areas of Southern Luzon.

The project was launched at the Infocentro camp here and involves the collection of shoe boxes to be filled with storybooks, pads, pencils, crayons, erasers, zippers and books.

Lt. Col. Ernesto Gonzales Jr., head of the Army's 14th Light Armor Battalion, said over 150 kids in remote areas now have no access to school-run books.

Volunteers from several groups, like the Sigma Alpha Society of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, would distribute the shoe boxes before the opening of the next school year in Grade 1 pupils in remote schools in the island provinces of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, Quezon, Camarines Norte and Aurora.

Brig. Gen. Lorenzo, head of the Alpha Phi Omega chapter association of Old Chapter based here, expressed support for the project.

A project flyer said shoe boxes are ideal storage containers for the school supplies because they can withstand transport through rough roads and remain dry even when soaked. The flyer said the project was initiated by Sgt. Alpha Bravo of the military school in the United States that started in 2007. A Provincial, Soldiers said he was introduced to the idea while at one soldiers' reunion when the Sigma Alpha fraternity donated some books and other school supplies for evacuation center.

Soldiers urged private firms, local businesses, government offices, community and other groups to help soldiers by donating shoe boxes and school supplies.

"Our partners can adopt their chosen school and fix up with us," said Soldiers.

He said interest could also write their addresses in the box so beneficiaries and their parents could thank them later.

"Who knows, the parents would help continue their love," he said.

He said soldiers "want poor students in the countryside to know and feel that there are lots of people who care for them."

The project has so far collected more than 200 shoe boxes.

Donors could bring their donations at the 4th Light Armor Battalion headquarters in Camp Nakar. The project sponsors could also be contacted through mobile phone numbers (0921-4543294, 0947-3387306 and e-mail address: ernesto_gonzales@yahoo.com).

SHOE BOXES waiting to be filled with basic school supplies to be distributed to indigent schoolchildren in far-flung areas

Tesda chief eyes 'new career' as barista

By Tara Quimonedo

IF HE gets fired from public service, this Cabinet member says he has a fallback: as a barista in some favorite eatery of his.

Saying he wanted to "recall the talk," Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) Director General Joel Villanueva has taken the food and beverage course at the agency he heads, learning the ins and outs of serving wine and making his favorite espresso.

"Honestly, I wanted to recall the talk. At the same time, I really want to give dignity to graduates of Tesda—that being a certified technical-vocational training] graduate should not be considered as being just a tech-voc graduate," Villanueva told the business.

Villanueva, an economics graduate of the University of Santo Tomas who finished a certificate course on business administration and management at Harvard University, took weekly classes with two other trainees for the last three months to finish the food service course.

Coffee lover

He was officially certified yesterday afternoon after passing a two-hour practical test.

"I'm really into coffee and wine. I love coffee. Now, I know how to make cappuccino, latte, frappuccino and other frappes," Villanueva said in a phone interview.

"At least if I get fired tomorrow, I can find a job or have my own coffee shop, restaurant or café," he said in jest.

The food service course was a challenge, said Villanueva, as it demanded a combination of mental agility and ability to keep up with what the job requires.

"Even in opening the wine, the cork should not pop. It should be opened slowly and the label must always be facing the client at all times," said Villanueva.

"And you have to memorize the parts of the espresso machine. I also learned how to make art in the foam (coffee froth)," said the official.

Director's brew

During his training, Villanueva was also able to create his own signature coffee, which enlightened dubbed as "JoEs Coffee (Director General's Coffee)."

Villanueva's concoction is a secret mix of mocha, vanilla ice cream, bits of hazelnut (chocolate bar), Kahlua (coffee liqueur) and whipped cream.

"I learned that it's not easy being a Tesda specialist. (Tesda graduates) said that they deserve to be respected. I learn that there is a stigma that you are just a tech-voc graduate. But that shouldn't be the case," Villanueva said.

The official said he hopes to one day serve his signature coffee to fellow Cabinet members and perhaps even to the President.

KIZUNA
ALL TOGETHER
BAYANIHAN
Commemoration of the Great East Japan 2011 Earthquake

It is a year since the greatest disaster mankind had known hit Japan. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Filipino people and the Government of the Philippines for the support extended to my country during such trying times.

Last September, Typhoon Pablo was visited the southern area, Minamiboso city in Miyagi prefecture, and extended a helping hand to the distressed locals. The Philippines' medical support teams from the Department of Health were also dispatched to Japan and three Filipina doctors provided medical services last summer. Thousands of individuals, companies and organizations from various parts of the Philippines offered their valuable support and warm words of encouragement through the Philippine Red Cross, the Japanese Embassy and other channels. It moved a lot to our people.

A year after the disaster, normal life is back in Japan except for very limited areas. Japan is open for business, tourism and study. Japan has gone through crisis, survived and empowered ourselves. This time it is better. We know that we are not alone.

Of course, after such a disaster the road ahead is still hard and long. It is Japan's responsibility to share the knowledge and lessons learned from the disaster with the international community. Japan will transform challenges into opportunities concerning various issues such as post-disaster reconstruction, disaster risk reduction, a shift in a "green economy", how to cope with aging society. We look forward to the challenge and intend to offer the world a model as a "heart is never in addressing these challenges."

TOSHINAO URABE
Ambassador of Japan

Corona wife seen to 'connect the dots' on bank deposits

Ende, 88, set for killer sled but for toothache

COCO LEVY CASE

Ombudsman: No plunder rap vs Danding

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Management Association of the Philippines

PHILEXPORT

DRIVING PROGRESS THROUGH RESPONSIBLE MINERALS DEVELOPMENT

The business community agrees with President Benigno S. C. Aquino III that for the country to reform its social fabric and achieve truly inclusive economic growth, it must attract greater levels of investments. This will in turn generate jobs, alleviate poverty and make our country a leader in Asia once again. But attracting investments must be done without compromising the environment for future generations.

Recognizing the potential of the country's huge mineral wealth, we are of the view that the Aquino government's goals can be attained through a judicious, rational, and developmental approach to minerals development. We support the advancement of legitimate, responsible mining that properly takes care of the environment during and after operations. And to do so, we need an environment of consistency, stability and harmonized policies.

We also believe that the role of all mining stakeholders is to ensure the enforcement of all government regulations in terms of fair revenue sharing, responsive community development, and responsible stewardship of the environment.

If government really wants to encourage long-term and recurrent investments, it must be careful in making substantive changes to what is already a well-crafted mining law to ensure that the Philippine investment environment is competitive with other mineral-rich countries. It is more important for government to decisively implement existing policies that encourage much-needed investments. We ask those who oppose mining to assist in monitoring mining activities to ensure that mining firms are operating responsibly, with care for the environment. What is needed is stricter enforcement and monitoring, not a ban. We can all help in achieving this.

There is an overarching need for the national government to:

1. Strengthen the organizational and financial capacity of government mining and environment protection regulatory agencies to effectively enforce mining laws as well as evaluate and monitor mining activities; mandate these agencies to compel small scale-miners to comply with environmental protection laws and to ensure that only Filipino citizens are allowed to do small-scale mining;
2. Facilitate the processing of pending mining and exploration permits and applications of legitimate investors;
3. Harmonize national laws and policies on mining with conflicting local ordinances;
4. Immediately pass legislation to amend existing mining laws and incorporate the new mining policy with prospective application to new projects; this will eliminate anxieties of existing mining companies holding agreements and contracts validly approved under existing mining laws;
5. Require a more equitable share in extracted minerals in terms of direct national taxes and share in net revenues of mining companies; such share should not be unduly deferred until full cost recovery;
6. Address the tax and export leakages in illegal mining and small-scale mining sector to enable the government to collect the proper revenues;
7. Earmark a fixed percentage of government's earnings from mining for programs that will create new capital, develop human resources, and build horizontal infrastructure;
8. Initiate close consultation with all mining stakeholders to review revenue sharing policies, particularly by certifying as urgent HB No. 4410 on the direct remittance of 40% LGU share in mining taxes;
9. Compel mining companies to submit a definite rehabilitation/restoration program in mining areas and implement said program at the companies' expense within a year after their cessation of extraction activities in a particular area;
10. Require mining establishments to assume full responsibility in the prevention, mitigation, elimination, and correction of any environmental and social damage that may occur during their operation at the mine site and peripheral areas/communities;
11. Ban any kind of mining in any watershed or protected areas and prosecute those national and/or local government officials who will grant mining permits in these areas;
12. Encourage the development of downstream industries within an industrial development framework and an environment that will provide for security of investments in far-flung areas.

"We have a choice between fear and faith, between hardship and hope, between division and unity. Our task is to find the common ground of reason, through patient dialogue and constructive suggestions – and from there, move forward to the more prosperous future our people deserve."

Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)
Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)
Philippine Exporters Confederation (PhilExport)

Aussie scholarships for Pinoy leaders, achievers

AT LEAST 120 scholarships for masteral and doctoral degrees in leading Australian universities starting 2013 are now open to high-achieving Filipinos, Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Bill Tweddell has announced.

The deadline for submitting scholarship applications under the Australia Awards for Development program is April 28.

"The Development Awards aim to contribute to the long term development of the Philippines, and to promote knowledge, education links and understanding between Australia and the Philippines," Tweddell said.

At least half of the 120 scholarship slots are allocated to Australia's key partner agencies delivering priority development initiatives, with the remainder open to the public.

The scholarships grants cover travel, study and living expenses for studies in Australia's world-class universities.

Australia Awards for Development include the Australian Development Scholarships and the Australian Leadership Awards administered by AusAID.

In the Philippines, the Australia Awards for Development are part of the Australia-Philippines development cooperation program and are targeted at priority development needs.

Applicants who demonstrate the most potential to impact development in the Philippines will be considered for the additional prestigious Australian Leadership Award.

Our Australian government scholars include: former Education Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo, Mr. Ben Bernardo (2008 Australia Mahbub Presidential Awardee, 2008 Ten Outstanding Young Men awardee, and 2011 World Economic Forum Young Global Leader), and Ms. Dolores Bernaldez (2010 Presidential Awardee) and Regina Benajmin.

For details go to www.australiaawards.gov.au and www.pdafi.org.ph./TID

Gov't inks P4-B deal with Japan

By Kristine L. Alave

THE government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have signed a P4-billion project that would provide support services and infrastructure to some 30,000 farmers in Mindanao, a senior agrarian reform official said.

Undersecretary Jerry Barcenas, of the Department of Agrarian Reform, said the government and JICA have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) aimed at developing a competitive, sustainable and technology-based agriculture sector to ensure food security, increase farmer's income, attract investments and generate employment opportunities," Barcenas said.

Barcenas said the project seeks to improve agricultural production in 15,000 hectares of farmlands.

New Era University College of Law

9 Central Avenue, New Era, Quezon City

Congratulations to NEU-COL's new lawyer:

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15. Tirso O. Vargas
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Congratulations, as well, to the new Iglesia ni Cristo lawyers:

1. Jon Edmarc R. Castillo
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Glory be to God!

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BUY win

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Easy, gracious presence

MANY SPEAK of him as witty, cultured and well-read, but these descriptions tend to remain in the abstract until one enters the office of the late Philippine Daily Inquirer publisher Isagani Yambot and sees for him- or herself the breadth of the man's hunger for learning.

On shelves and bookcases lining every wall of the office, surrounding his table that itself is piled high with paperwork and reading fare, are volumes on every topic imaginable, from some of the world's oldest literature (the "Bhagavad Gita," Petronius' "Satyricon") to Western classics (Gide's "The Immoralist," Thomas Hardy's "Jude the Obscure"), from science fiction and travelogues (Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451," Paul Theroux's "The Pillars of Hercules") to encyclopedic literary fare (Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses," Graham Greene's "The Tenth Man"); from nonfiction (NS. Naipaul's "India," Jon Krakauer's "Into Thin Air") to potboilers (Dolio Grisham's "The Partner," Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code").

EDITORIAL

Not surprisingly, memoirs and biographies of media stalwarts abound (Ben Bradlee's "The Good Life," Arthur Gelb's "City Room," James Reston's "Deadline") along with more panoramic studies of the industry (David Halberstam's "The Powers That Be," Howard Kurtz's "Media Circus"). There is history (Sterling Seagrave's "The Marcos Dynasty," Nick Joaquin's "The Sapiencia of Tarlac") and pseudo-history ("The Marcos Years: Achievements under the New Society"). And film, celebrity and pop-culture also get their due (George Hampton's "Truman Capote" and "The Cinema of Ishmael Credo").

Yambot was a fixture in film festivals, the theater and the concert scene. But not many people knew that, at the end of a movie or a concert, he was invariably back at the office, poring over pages of the paper, often way beyond midnight.

And fewer people know that while he graduated valedictorian of his batch at Torres High School in Tondo, the salutatorian, Rolando Tinio, would eventually become a National Artist for Theater and Literature. He was, clearly, of that generation that saw the cultivation of the mind, the pursuit of knowledge and the humanities, not only as a professional imperative but also as the anchor of a genteel, gentlemanly life.

Members of his family recall that Yambot was in a hurry to leave the hospital after his heart bypass operation not only because he found the cardiothoracic postoperative hot oil to be unsuited to catch a stray production of the opera "La Traviata" in Manila, which was the only one weekend.

His loved food, the only seeming requirement being that it be edible. He made the rounds of the hipcious coffee every afternoon hunting for grub he could squirrel into his office, or he consumed during his late-night labors.

And he loved the sight of pulchritude. A visit from a bevy of beauty queens would see him donning two his office and emerging looking dapper in a suit and with an extra twinkle in his eye.

He was, in short, a host who sent his gracious lightly. And in the high-pressure environment of a daily newspaper, that gift for constant buoyancy—a quiet persistence born of decades of experience in the volatile world of Philippine media, some of it under very trying conditions—was always a balm.

Of all the virtues Yambot brought to the hipcious newsroom—his passion for excellence, his grasp of the occasion and business of news, his defense of press freedom—the one void immediately felt with his passing was his easy, gracious presence.

Honor to the profession

BECAUSE THE profession is so routinely denigrated by critics or those with political agendas, it is easy to forget that journalism is an often thankless, endlessly difficult and, at times, life-threatening occupation. Maria Ressa reminded the world of that.

The 50-year-old foreign correspondent was killed recently in Syria. Ressa, the veteran of earlier assignments that also claimed the life of French photojournalist Rémi Ochlik. They were the sixth and seventh journalists killed in Syria since November (an eighth died Feb. 29). With Ressa commanded, they may well be the busiest there.

FOREIGN COMMENT

A fearless correspondent, Ochlik had brought humor to her profession. A product of Oyster Bay, Long Island, she "brought humor to her duties throughout her life and even in death, she brought attention to the humanitarian crisis that is, always, war.

The Democratic and Christian Ideals (Rodriguez, New York)

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More skeletons in Corona's closet

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

"WHY ARE you coming out with these allegations only now?" the defense lawyers of Chief Justice Renato Corona are asking, after Sen Jinggoy Estrada, daughter of one of the original stockholders of Basa-Gotesco Enterprises Inc. (BGEI), narrated in detail in a two-page sworn statement with the Impeachment Court her family was "appressed by the Coronas."

The simple answer to the "Why only now?" question is that it's human instinct to seek self-preservation. Fear of death is a natural human instinct. You don't want to feel the business end of a pistol pressed against your forehead. And, given the circumstances under which the Basa family found themselves after an internal squabble over the BGEI assets—as narrated by Ilora, with Corona himself pointing a gun at the head of the caretaker of a BGEI-owned property where he was already a Makeshifting official in 1997—you take chances to your security seriously. (The caretaker, Rolito Agustino, is now dead but he executed an affidavit on Oct. 13, 1997 when he was 62 years old.)

Basa herself said: "Nasabihan na nga kami, eh." (She has, in fact, been keeping quiet.) We wanted to put this behind us. But when we learned that Corona was using BGEI as a cover-up for his unexplained wealth, we had to come forward to set the record straight. We cannot stand being used as his excuse after everything he has done to our family."

In one of his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) submitted to the impeachment court, Corona claimed that he obtained on P11 million loan from BGEI. But how could Corona have obtained a loan from BGEI when the company established in 1961 had been dormant the past decade after the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) revoked its certificate of registration for repeated failure to submit financial reports?

There are other pertinent questions that should be asked. What was the purported loan for? Did it go through the proper procedure? Was there a meeting of the BGEI Board of Directors to approve the loan? What documents can Corona show that indeed he obtained a loan from BGEI and that BGEI approved his loan application? How was Corona able to obtain a loan from BGEI when he claims he never took an active part in BGEI's corporate affairs? Did Corona, his wife, as administrator appoint the family bet businessmen?

Corona's defense lawyers are now claiming that the P11 million in three different (Philam) time deposits that were suspiciously withdrawn on Dec. 12, 2011—the same day that Corona was impeached by the House of Representatives—came from BGEI.

But why would BGEI funds be deposited in Renato Corona's name? If these funds were corporate property and held in a joint account, why did Corona need to authorize his wife Cristina to withdraw the amounts, as Cristina could have done so herself without securing her husband's authorization?

Even if Corona were the duly authorized administrator of BGEI, the P44 million from the sale of BGEI's Bonifacio property should have been deposited in a BGEI corporate account, not in his own, or Renato's personal accounts. Basa's appointment as co-administrator of BGEI funds have gone are therefore not without basis.

The argument of Corona's lawyers that the P36 million in his bank deposits is not ill-gotten wealth does not belong to Corona is beside the point and is a twisting of facts.

But how could they deny the close facts?

One, P36 million was found in Corona's bank accounts. Two, he did not declare this amount in his SALNs. And three, he conspicuously withdrew this huge amount on the day that he was impeached. It is obvious that Corona's lawyers are getting more desperate in trying to find ways to extricate him from the mess of his own making.

When cornered, again more black ink on your adversaries. That's standard rapid tactics that Corona learned well, now that the tables are turned and he's the one on the dock instead of behind the judge's podium. Instigating the opponents in black is what Corona has been doing since he was impeached in December last year by the House.

Corona has branded Ilora's confession as "all lies." That's easy to say. But does he deny that he never pointed a gun at the head of a caretaker way back in 1997 and told "Bakit pumo me pasabugin ko ang ulo mo?") The 67-year-old caretaker died not long after the incident. Ilora not before executing an affidavit saying that it was indeed Renato Corona who pointed a gun at him.

This is the man who wants to continue sitting as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court!

* * *

Here are excerpts from the affidavit of Agustino, the caretaker:

"...Sa pagkain ng aso 7 at aso 8 ng pole (of Jan. 2, 1997) meroppo kong makatabili ng kapisan), dumating ang ring-kasong (Cristina at Renato Corona. Galit ang mag-asawa sa pasgawa ng riserong aso si Cristina kung bakit hindi ito (talaga) ang kanilang sa retreat ngo sa Bonifacio.

"Mahinahon akong sumagot na hindi kasa ang kanilang tanong sila lang kayo't wapili, ser (ginoon) ang dating kanilang upang maisaayang pero ito pasiring ito, kinabukasan akong hard sa Renato sa makbo at sabay sigaway 'Bakit ginaling mong pumbagin kita.' 'Sinong dito kung kaya nakbo, sabakit hindi ko na nakbong ang kayong sagot *mahi hindi na ako makabayad* at sa sobrang kito ng aking dibdib, dalam dalam akong kinakasi'pagsalay."

Socialized 'sin tax' on tobacco?

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

SINCE way back in 2004, I have written in support of "sin taxes" on tobacco not simply as a policy advocate but as someone who grew up with asthma. Some asters stalk you in your jeep. Smoking catches me in my lungs. I know how to value a full breath of clean air, the joy of breathing in and out without obstruction, something that others simply take for granted.

The "multi-tiered" tax on tobacco is misleading. Proponents say that cheaper smokes mean it is taxed less. That's the mistake of mortal purists, right? In the words of President Ramon Magsaysay: "Those who have less in life should have more in law." They miss the point also, golfers. You socialize benefits for the poor. You don't socialize their access to poisons. Jose, Mich-Mich, Juanchito Santiago would frolic. What were you thinking?

For a long time already, the Philippines has studied how best to impose sin taxes on, among others, tobacco products. In effect, we raise the cost of tobacco in order to deter people from smoking. It's like saying (we for one feel so righteous), it annoys that people are free to live as they please, completely at liberty to misplace or threaten their lives, and the best (the first one to do—short of criminalizing or act—it is to scrutinize good and downright bad) acts. One way is through graphic pictorial warnings on cigarette boxes. Another is—and that is the topic here—increasing the cost of cigarettes through higher taxes.

There are now two bills in Congress. The first retains the multi-tiered system, where more expensive brands are taxed higher, and cheaper brands are taxed lower. Called the Singson bill, having been filed by Rep. Eric Singson (I, Ilocos Sur) district, Ilocos Sur), it appears to enjoy the support of the local tobacco industry. The second is Malacañang's draft, authored by Rep. Joseph Emilio Apostolico Abaya (Tito Abaya, Cavite) that will impose a single tax, regardless of price.

The Singson bill seems attractive at first. At all, doesn't it simply make sense to adjust the tax rate to the cost of the product? But look at the inevitable result: a godsend.

Revenue wise, under the unitary tax system in the near bill, taxes will be automatically increased as inflation inflates. The revenue increase will also be dedicated to providing universal health care.

In any discussion of the Philippine tobacco industry, the elephant in the room is the fact that one company today holds a 93-percent share of the total market. Philip Morris and Fortune Tobacco merged in 2010, and other than they have bought their tobacco mostly cheaply from the farmers, from P95 per kilo per-merger, to P71 today. The proposed unitary system will level the playing field, increase market competition, and help the Filipino tobacco farmer get a better deal for his products.

Addiction substances try with out will, but the tobacco lobby says with one mouth, we. The Constitution requires that we adopt a "progressive system of taxation." But when it comes to sin taxes, let us not feel somehow mistaken in thinking that taxing lowest sin taxes best the poor is progressive. If the goal is to prevent them from the addictions of tobacco, the formula works differently. In fact, if we follow the global pattern, the wealthier classes are smoking less, and the smokers fall more on the poor—so that the poor bear 47 per billion the burden of the crises of the disease bill, more any tax on cigarettes will inevitably be regressive.

* * *

Filipino ophthalmologists mark March 6 the feast Sibol on March 11-17 with the theme Philippine Glaucoma Congress this weekend at the Dusit Thanger in Hotel. This congress is part of their "glaucoma awareness" program, about this disease which affects the optic nerve. It is potentially blinding but, if addressed early enough, one's vision can actually be saved. Our Filipino experts have invited their global counterparts to share their knowledge and encourage all over the country to participate in this congress.

* * *

Comments to jacasino@yahoo.com

The milieu of Isagani Yambot

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

IT IS said newspapermen don't retire. They just drop dead.

This is exactly what Isagani Yambot did. He was felled by a heart attack—the terminal consummation that ever afflicted the human race—on Friday, March 1, following a six-hour multiple bypass surgery a week before. He was 77. Ironically, a week before age supposedly overpowering him as a procedure that could cut the health of other men half his age.

Newspapermen are a class of people who are, notwithstanding numerous contradictions as occupying one of the most stressful jobs in the world as writers, not to soldiers and policemen. They are regarded as high insurance risks, commanding higher premiums for their insurance policies. What animates some of his friends is how Yambot survived the rigors of his fallen occupation as a top editor age, with a lucid mind.

I am not speaking of Yambot's remarkable endurance of the natural laws of decay but more about his professional life's adaptation and resilience to turbulent political upheavals in this country that bracketed his journalistic career devoted to chronicling the tumultuous events of public affairs.

Our paths crossed in the Manila Times building on Florentino Torres Street. In the 1960s, Times was one of the promising middle-level journalism who were the protégés of the Times editor, Jose Laurel Castro. Castro incidentally a senator died without subpoena to testify in the Senate blue ribbon. His office section of the building was occupied by the flat by Marcos, the afternoon paper of the Times publication. Castro was just slightly younger than Chino diplomatic reporter and political columnist of the Marcos and under the surrounding of Emilio "Abe" Aguilar Cruz, the sensible and highly-tortured poet who taught me the nuances of good sense and cultivated my interest in classical music.

By the 1970s, Castro had moved on to higher and more responsible editorial jobs in the Times' history some bulk of clerks of the discipline of pre-martial law journalists.

There are not many surviving journalists of the 1960s generation. They are an endangered species. Cesar Tambot was a creature of the discipline of that kind of journalism. That generation is not to be found in the print media—but investigating is about hard facts, and less opinion. Times's reporting facts and events that happened yesterday and not what will happen tomorrow or what opinions would like to happen.

Sentient news began that principle carved on granite corners above the entrance to the imposing heights of the newspaper industry. He was a reporter at heart and in practice. Newspapers are about hard facts—verifiable facts—not about opinion.

When you are reading a newspaper with more space devoted to opinion, then you are not reading a good newspapers. You are reading a newspaper full of lies set from self-important nonentities, too full of themselves.

Our generation of newspapermen was called the ballpen and note-pad brigade. There were no cell phones then, no computers, no Internet.

Newspapermen were trained to write grounded portable Remington typewriters until their fingers ached. Today you won't see a journalist without a laptop or iPad. And yet the old-school journalists of the old methodology journalism produced honest and powerful stories. Newspapers today are flooded with social media entries from Facebook or Twitter which are hard to verify and authenticate.

Cyberspace journalism gives us an overapply of information, but, unquestionable citizen journalism. And this internet journalism poses a threat to the survival of the newspaper as a medium of information.

The newspaper is fighting for its life against the assault of the cyberspace media. Yambot spent a good part of his life as a journalist struggling to save the newspaper from extinction.

At a crossroads on IWD

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE WORLD marked International Women's Day yesterday and in the Philippines, we observe a "Women's Month" for all of March. I've always loved to do something special on my birthday, but I never thought I'd end up spending it before a room full of men, members and officers of the Pasig Rotary Club, and addressing the issue of reproductive health and rights and the pending RH bill.

But thank you to the very kind gentlemen, including the club's president Wolf Gomez, and media colleagues Mariecris "Thrilla" Briones, who organized the invitation. You were the most interested in the issue than I thought, and asked quite thoughtful questions.

The idea was that we supposed to be marked by a dialogue between those who are selected representatives of women's groups, communities, the academic and reproductive health service organizations. I think the agenda was to solicit the women's support for the pending RH bill and for other health measures to benefit women and children. Unfortunately, that would be found in the President's schedule for the dialogue, and so the women have marched—including first the exchange of text messages and e-mail and I bet, if I follow anyone on Twitter or Facebook on the issue, they're on the "Right for our rights and our autonomy mandate."

Someone at the Rotary Club meeting suggested we talk "not with #Digy but with Cesar Lee instead." Right, maybe the Commander in Chief's main agenda can allocate him an appropriate station, at least he may be more receptive to her suggestions.

• • •

ANYWAY, on the legislative front, Rotary members are saying they are ready to "heal the country" to see how a vote on the RH bill might transpire.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II has said he and Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. "are exploring the possibility of a vote on whether or not to terminate the debates on the RH bill" before session adjourns on March 22.

Gonzales said he wanted talk to the "main protagonists" to agree on a definite date when they are ready the period for amendments and the period for sponsorship.

Belmonte has said he wants the bill passed on second reading before the Holy Week break

A pillar of press freedom

THE NATIONAL Union of Journalists of the Philippines mourns the loss of one of our old pillars of our media community, Philippine Daily Inquirer columnist Isagani Yambot.

We extend our condolences to his family and to the hundreds even as we mourn his passing as friends.

Yam was a tireless advocate of press freedom and was a constant source of inspiration to us.

Notwithstanding incessant threats and use of the ugly newspapers in the country, he always found time to involve himself in campaigns for press freedom and to mourn media killings.

Indeed, Gani and his good friend and another source of inspiration, the late Joe Burgos were the "Batas Pilipinas" of the struggle for press freedom.

Despite the pandemic he held and the neurosis that went along with it, yet could never see a more humble and gracious person than Gani Yambot. He would bestow his as easily with reporters and photojournalists as he would with society's high and mighty. And he never flinched when confronted with the problems besetting Philippine media, nor even if those were cast at us by the bureaucrat of management and were the paper he worked for and loved.

If there is, perhaps, anything bigger than his world itself, it is the legacy he has left behind. It would undoubtedly be the unfinished business of seeing the time when genuine press freedom flourished in our society, when no journalist had to fear losing his life, limb or employment for pursuing the truth, when media owners were truly accountable to the welfare and safety of their employees.

But like we promise you, Gani, we will continue the good fight you fought alongside us. And we will find it.

Mahalkar ka tinggan mamon! Mahalkar ang mahatinggi pamahalaan!

—NEPTUNE ROYAL BENGTTRAVEL
mgb881@yahoo.com

LETTERS

Are all senators fit to sit as judges?

SENATE PRESIDENT Juan Ponce Enrile did what was only proper in citing private prosecution lawyer Shalimar Aguirre for contempt. Akin was only senator-judge opting to invoke the rules of order, here or under the former presidents we agree?

But we are also in contradiction with the private prosecution's refusal to, made on prosecutor Tiu that he must have been on state-issued to representing our position on the senator Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago.

It is a matter that matters on, the court ruled against the prosecution's move to subpoena Chief Justice Renato Corona's spouse and children. To be candid about it, Aguirre's fault was his refusal to say only the things that the impeachment court wants to hear. That is why defense lawyers Jose Roy III, despite his memorable lip, is hardly called contempt of "a P100 million per minute" Palace affair, was not motivated by any penalty by the court, he discreetly apologized before the court.

It is a blessing that the school hours coincide with the impeachment trial's schedule. Our children will never be able to understand what's happening on the impeachment floor. But no one can avoid raising the question of some of the judges' failure to foster a decent role model. The Chief Justice is ill and deserving of his present position. Not too long ago, there was a golden era of the Senate, when both the opposition and office-holders in senatorial elections were worthy of admiration. It was admirable. They are sorely missed!

—SAMUEL Q. BORJAL
manuelborjal@yahoo.com

Unseasonally high Maynilad water bill revised

THIS IS in reference to the letter, titled "Common sense, please," of Mary-grande E. Serrano, (Inquirer, 3/3/12).

We noted the dramatic increase in his water bill and ordered the case to our technical team for investigation. In our experience, such a spike is not entirely uncommon because of the presence of underground leaks and illegal tapping within our service area, as we immediately requested for an undue inspection of his service connection.

After completing the investigation, our technical team determined that an error was committed in the reading of his water consumption. Our Customer Relations Area has been filed for a reversal of his January billing.

We sincerely apologize for whatever inconvenience this matter may have caused Serrano, and encourage all our customers to likewise be vigilant in monitoring their monthly bills.

Any dramatic increase in water charges should be directly reported to the Maynilad Business Area office that has jurisdiction of the account so that a prompt investigation may be conducted.

For questions and concerns regarding our services, our Maynilad hotline is 1626.

—CHRISTINE G. DUARTE-MENDOZA,
Head, Corporate Communications,
Maynilad Water Services Inc.,
MWSI Compound, Katipunan Road,
Balara, Quezon City

Buying prices based on world market—Nestlé

THAT REFERS to the article titled "Subsidy for farming, P1,000 in course of action capital," (Inquirer, 3/1/12).

The report states that "coffee producers down here can choose how to sell their grown, unroasted beans to food conglomerates like Nestlé ... which back-ends to buy prices here." The story further says that "Since the company directly buys almost all of its farmers' green beans, it has the power to discount the price."

While it is true to say that Nestlé is the biggest buyer of green coffee in the country for the domestic production of Nescafé, we wish to clarify that our local coffee buying prices have always been, and continue to be, based on the prevailing world market prices. Specific buying price, which is uniform throughout the country, is posted in our eight buying stations nationwide, supported by announcements via text messages and radio.

Coffee farmers are our fundamental partners in producing the highest possible quality of Nescafé for Filipinos, and we are our total commitment in promoting coffee farming as a viable economic venture.

It is for this reason that Nestlé actively pursues an agronomy program aimed at helping coffee farmers improve both the quality and quantity of their coffee yield. At the center of this program is the Nestlé Agricultural and Communication Base (NESP) in Tagaytay City, Davao del Norte, which we have set up in the Sto. Niño-Nestlé agricultural research and training activities in the Philippines.

Through the Nestlé Agronomy Program, we assist to help farmers by:

• Providing them access to technological advances in coffee farming, including farmer techniques for growing coffee and adapting to changing agricultural conditions. The NESP also develops and propagates ready-to-plant seedlings which are distributed to our farmers at cost. In 2011, 3,000 hectares of new land were planted with Robusta coffee.

• Making training accessible to them to transfer technical know-how and improve their coffee farming methods. Since 1999, Nestlé has trained over 11,000 farmers, coffee specialists, technicians, and students in coffee growing.

The Local Agronomy Program is an integral part of the Global Nestlé Plan, which aims to make coffee farming sustainable for all coffee farmers.

We Nestlé that is and will be, as we say in our agenda in the Philippines for the long term.

Toward this end, we have recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Nestlé and the National Convergence Initiative comprised of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Science and Technology, and the University of Agriculture Sultana. We also signed two landmark investors' forums last year to encourage more investors to invest in coffee growing.

Working hand in hand with the government, we hope to be able to make a positive difference in the lives of the farmers coffee farmers.

—EDITH DE LEON,
assistant vice president,
Corporate Affairs,
Nestlé Philippines Inc.,
Nestlé Center,
31 Plaza Drive,
Rockwell Center,
Makati City

March 25, 2012 at Mall of Asia

3K	5K	10K	15K
CLOSED	Php500	Php650	Php750

In-store registration will be held at R.O.X. Bonifacio High Street from March 07 to 10, 2012, 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM and at BDO Foundation Office at BDO Corporate Center, Makati City from March 07 to 10, 2012, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Race packets shall be available on March 16 to 18, 2012.

Avail freebies & huge discounts on your Race Kit for every purchase of a Prepaid Tattoo Stick!

Tattoo

Name will be officiated by: Tin 'R Masters

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Writers of letters to the editor are required to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter which such information is omitted.

Impeachment trial delaying 3 banking bills in Senate

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE SENATE's current focus on the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona could result in its failure to approve three banking bills that a global anti-money laundering body wants signed into law by May.

Some senators have warned that if the bills are not signed into law in two months, the Philippines would end up being blacklisted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which would pose some difficulties for the international monetary transactions of overseas Filipinos workers and domestic banks.

Scrutinize bank deposits

Two of the measures—the Terror Financing Suppression bill (Senate Bill No. 2857) and amendment (Senate Bill No. 3008), which proposes to harmonize existing requirements for the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) to be able to scrutinize a suspected launderer's bank deposits—are now being debated in the Senate.

A third (Senate Bill No. 3420) seeking to expand the categories of predicate crimes that would allow the AMLC to scrutinize bank deposits and increase the range of institutions required to report transactions of P500,000 and up is still stalled the committee on banks, financial institutions and currencies.

In a hearing yesterday AMLC executive director Vicente Aquino expressed support for the third measure that requires casinos, jewelers, real estate agents, dealers in precious metals and stones and the like to report transactions that reach or exceed P500,000 to the AMLC.

The bill lists arresting predicate crimes that would make a bank account liable for AMLC scrutiny, the following: bribery, kidnapping, carjacking, malversation of public funds, hijack, tax crimes, trafficking in persons, smuggling of firearms, explosives and arsenic, and racketeering.

Approve by May

Aquino said the senators have assured him "they will do their best" to approve the three measures by May.

However, Sergio Osmeña III, the banks committee chair, noted that the heavily schedule impossible to meet the deadline.

"It is possible but it's not plausible," he said when asked whether the Senate would pass the three bills in time for the FATF's May deadline.

The Senate has only four leg. ative session left this month before it goes on a six-week break. Sessions will resume on May 7.

The chamber's legislative sessions have been severely hampered by the Corona impeachment trial release hearings have been scheduled every afternoon since Jan. 16.

Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa wrote to Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile earlier this month to remind him that the FATF wanted the approval of the first two bills "not later than 31 December 2011." Both Malacañang had certified the two measures as urgent.

'Enhanced verification'

Sen. Teofisto Guingona III said establishment of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) would be subjected to "enhanced verification" by banks that would demand proof that the money he or she wants had been remitted legitimately.

"Maybe they would also be asked to produce their employment contracts, show papers to prove they are working abroad legally. If the banks would require more manpower just to deal with this, their overhead expenses could go up and they might just refuse transactions involving OFWs," he said.

According to Guingona, even established corporations may be required to "fill out many forms, prove legitimate sources and make it very difficult for money to get in and out because of the blacklist."

But Sil 3009 has enough support in the Senate to survive a move by filibuster-quarantine.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, for example, objects to the ex parte provision that does away with the requirement for the AMLC to seek clearance from the Office of the Solicitor General and the Court of Appeals and inform a suspected launderer before it can scrutinize his or her deposits.

Enrile also has expressed reservations about SB 3008, especially after a photocopy and details of Corona's signature and from the Philippine Savings Bank was leaked to Prime Properties.

He said the leak indicated the bank's failure to secure a depositor's personal details, which was a violation of the Bank Secrecy Law.

More problems

Both senators said the expansion of the Anti-Money Laundering Act's coverage could prevent some problems in the future.

Guingona, however, insisted that the ex parte provision that forces a against a necessary since informing a depositor that his accounts will be scrutinized would only make him withdraw his deposits.

"Based on experience, this is usually what happens. Senators, but Gerardo (Gatbo) Sarmiento and (Jackie) Ligot pulled out their deposits because they were notified. So our really need the ex parte," he said.

The two generals referred to are suspected of appropriating large amounts from the Armed Forces budget.

Guingona believes the Senate can still approve the three bills despite time limitations.

"Right after the (legislative recess), we can speed up everything. By next week, it is possible that (the third bill) would already be presented to the plenary," he said.

CJ: I rebuffed P-Noy bid for truth body

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adviser "some personalities."

"Could the President use that if we have evidence, there he's pursue cases against them. That's one role in the judiciary," Corona explained telling Mr. Aquino. "But we need to abide by the Constitution and the requirements of the law."

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, commenting on Corona's claim, said at the regular news briefing in Malacañang: "What the President asked the Chief Justice was, 'Can we expect fairness from you?' And the Chief Justice said, 'Yes, you can expect fairness from us. We will render decisions based on fairness and legal principles.'"

In a statement earlier, Lacierda said that during the meeting in the house of Mr. Aquino's sister, Pinky Abellada, the President and Corona had an "open exchange of opinions and views about various topics on how to strengthen the relational between the executive and the judicial branches of government."

"In fact, the President gave him the chance to prove that he was partial to no one, that he was only after the truth and that the interest of the majority would prevail."

Lacierda said Mr. Aquino had nothing to do with Senator Guingona's purported offer to Corona.

Guingona confirmed it on an radio interview that he invited Corona, his former professor at the Ateneo Law School, to lunch with his brother, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, in the latter's Sen Manila home but denied an "totally untrue" the allegation of the Chief Justice.

He described the meeting as "a social lunch." He said that the two men had served under the Ramos administration—his father as executive secretary and Corona as legal adviser.

"It was to, hello, how are you? and all that stuff. It was nothing of the sort that he was saying was discussed."

The former law partners of Cayetano at the influential Villareal Cruz Marcelo and Angangco, known as "The Firm," said in a statement that Corona's claim that the late Sen. was a "hatchet job" is "utterly false" and was intended to "divert public attention from his trial."

Cayetano, one of the founders of the "The Firm," was Corona's closest friend when then Chief Justice Reynato Puno retired in May 2010.

On Tuesday, Corona was the guest in three news programs of GMA 7 during which he refuted the allegations leveled against him by the prosecution and Atty. Lorna Kapunan, who is also representing his family's accounts.

Guingona proposal

In yesterday's radio interview, Corona referred to the first time to media reports earlier that Guingona, one of his Aquino's allies in the Senate, had tried to persuade him to leave the judiciary way before his scheduled retirement in 2018 to open way to Congress.

According to Corona, the lunch meeting with the Guingonas took place "sometime before the talks of impeachment started filtering out" last year.

"After we ate, he proposed to me: 'What do you think about retiring early and sharing your term?' ... He was asking if I was amenable to exploring talks in that direction," Corona said in a mix of Filipino and English.

"He mentioned specifically Justice Antonio Carpio," Corona said. He said he told his former student that such an agreement was "in violation of the Constitution."

'Not friendly'

Corona said the meeting between him and Mr. Aquino took place at the house of Bailey Cruz, the President's elder sister, over lunch but Lacierda said it was at the residence of Pinky Abellada in July 2010.

Corona said the meeting was arranged by a retired Supreme Court justice whom he declined to identify, but an Inquirer source said it was Antonio Eduardo Nachura, a member of the ruling Liberal Party. Also in the meeting was Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, a head of the Chief Justice in the Executive Order of Utopia.

After having lunch, Ochoa and the justice stood up to discuss, and while their escorts, security personnel and his friend, and he started to talk," he narrated.

In their 35-minute conversation, he said he told the President: "One only hope is that the cases should not be filed haphazardly."

He said he also advised the President not to indiscriminately file cases "because that's difficult."

"After that, we shook hands. He said he was very friendly to me," Corona said.

Death threats

In the radio interview, Corona defended the Supreme Court's decision to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the creation of the Philippine Truth Commission since it violated the constitutional provision on equal protection.

He said the truth body "targeted only one group," referring to the executive branch, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her political allies.

"They should have amended the executive order which created the truth commission," he said.

President Aquino took his oath of office before Associate Justice Antonio Conchita Carpio Morales instead of Corona.

Corona was then being criticized for being a midnight appointee of Arroyo, having been named Chief Justice after the May 10, 2010, national elections, although the Supreme Court later ruled that the appointment was legal. The Constitution bans presidential appointment two months before an election.

The Chief Justice also disclosed that he had decided to use a bulletproof sport utility vehicle after receiving death threats. He did not elaborate.

"I was told by a friend that I should not take it as a joke. The friend is from the intelligence community, not the police intelligence," he said.

Corona is scheduled to appear in veteran broadcaster Joe Taruc's program over radio dzRH at 8 a.m. today. With reports from Norman Bordadora and Cathy C. Yamsuan

De Lima on CJ media blitz: Unbecoming

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other agenda."

'It's our turn'

But Corona defended his decision to appear in several television and radio programs to speak about the alleged anomalies leveled against him by the prosecution and his team, for which the Chief Justice has hired the services of Atty. Lorna Kapunan and Atty. Jose Roy III.

He described the meeting as "a social lunch." He said that the two men had served under the Ramos administration—his father as executive secretary and Corona as legal adviser.

"It was to, hello, how are you? and all that stuff. It was nothing of the sort that he was saying was discussed."

The former law partners of Cayetano at the influential Villareal Cruz Marcelo and Angangco, known as "The Firm," said in a statement that Corona's claim that the late Sen. was a "hatchet job" is "utterly false" and was intended to "divert public attention from his trial."

Cayetano, one of the founders of the "The Firm," was Corona's closest friend when then Chief Justice Reynato Puno retired in May 2010.

On Tuesday, Corona was the guest in three news programs of GMA 7 during which he refuted the allegations leveled against him by the prosecution and his team, for which the Chief Justice has hired the services of Atty. Lorna Kapunan and Atty. Jose Roy III.

Guingona proposal

In yesterday's radio interview, Corona referred to the first time to media reports earlier that Guingona, one of his

preachment trial in the Senate.

In an interview with radio dzRH, the Chief Justice said he had wanted to grant requests for media interviews, but his lawyers advised him to wait for the appropriate time.

He denied the prosecutors' claims that he was engaging in a "defense by publicity," noting that the lawmakers who impeached him in the House of Representatives attended him in the media even before the impeachment proceedings began.

"They want the people to hear only to them. That's not right... They had their time. Now, it's our turn," Corona said in Filipino.

He said the House prosecutors presented a "trial by publicity" to malign him when they "failed to get what they wanted to the impeachment court."

While Corona has the right to defend himself in public, De Lima said he should just present his evidence before the Senate impeachment court.

"Why does he have to do that? Remember there has been a couple of instances when he delivered teaching remarks before completely irrelevant to the

Ana Basa denies Corona raps: Baseless

By Cynthia D. Balana

Atty. Ana Basa, a member of the Iloilo Coalition, denied the accusation of Chief Justice Renato Corona that her decision to declare and take about the shares of the Chief Justice and his wife Cristina was part of a "predetermined lynching job" being carried out by the line-line of Senator Associate Justice Antonio Carpio.

"I'm not sure. I don't even know Justice Carpio. I don't have any idea. I never met him. I have no friends or relatives with him. I've never met him," said Ana, an American citizen and first cousin of Cristina.

In his interview with a "friendly" television network on Wednesday, Corona lambasted Basa for declaring him guilty in order of having brought injustice and sufferings to the Basa-Doubles data by striking control of Basa-Golden Enterprises Inc. (BGEI). He insisted that Basa's involvement was "all lies."

"I came here for a vacation with my brothers and sisters. We're supposed to have a quiet life but all of a sudden, you pass your time. You're good, you heard me. Ang galing ninyo rito eh." she told the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

"What can I do? I'm not speaking whether I should talk to you but since you were already here, we talkbacks talked among ourselves whether to grant the interview," she said.

The Inquirer found Ana and her siblings last week through a contact who learned of their arrival in the country.

He said though that questions on the merits of their pending cases in connection with BGEI against Corona would not be touched during the interview.

Well-respected

"Well I know the PDI newspaper. I've seen newspaper everywhere and it's a well-respected newspaper. So with he sign, he said he could be even kinglapse. It's true but we're told and we're the truth. That's it," she added.

The prosecution panel's spokesperson on just laughed off Corona's claim that the unfolding of Ana was a "predetermined lynching job" being carried out by DOJ Carpio.

Marilyn Ray Ramos Quinto-Jet said that on the contrary, it was the prosecution members and their spokesperson who had been victims of black propaganda from the office side, citing his "malicious allegedly" statement which he vehemently denied.

Quinto said the prosecution endorsed Corona's decision to ...

> *The Firm says media blitz makes Corona look like a politician*
>
> THE FURIES the partners of Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio yesterday who-merely-denied Chief Justice Renato Corona's claim that they were behind the "predetermined lynching job" against him.
>
> In an e-mailed statement, the influential Villaraza Cruz Marcelo & Angangco law firm (VMCLaw), of which Carpio is "Tito Firm," dismissed as "absolutely false" Corona's allegation "and contrary to the facts."
>
> Speaking for The Firm, R. Leonardo C. Jimenez Jr., CEO-Chief managing partner and chief operating officer, said in the statement the Chief Justice's statement "does not belong outside of a politician than a serving magistrate."
>
> "My duty as an executive forces the baseless allegations of Chief Justice Corona. These accusations and conspiracy theories are absolutely false and (are) unrelated to) direct public statements were from the issues in his trial," Jimenez said.
>
> He said Carpio, one of The Firm's founding partners, cut off his relationship from the law office since he was named to the Supreme Court in 2001.
>
> "Carpio) no longer has any interest in our firm. His unerring record in public service bolster the institution he represents and serves as an inspiration to us as well as others in our profession," said The CVCLaw managing partner.
>
> Should Corona be convicted by the Senate impeachment court, Jimenez said The firm would "respect the sole prerogative" of President Aquino to "appoint his replacement."
>
> "We join the nation in the belief that the President will appoint a Chief Justice of his own choice, one who has[credibility, integrity and independence, and we can demand by others," Jimenez said.
>
> The Inquirer sought as early as December 2011 that our firm will not participate in the impeachment trial. Senate has borne this statement to be true as we have declined any requests for statement in the trial. None of our lawyers have appeared as counsel for either side." -Marlon Ramos

Basa denied that Corona is now when the impeachment complaint against Corona was still being drafted.

Angara said the team could...criticize it. But this was whether Corona had the probity, integrity and independence required of a Chief Justice.

He said that while the prosecution welcomed the decision of the defense to put Corona on the witness stand to explain the SALN issue, it should be Corona himself who should explain his SALN and why he "lied" the supposed BGEI money in his account.

Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Javier Colmenares said that while Bayan Muna supported the lawyers of expression of both the prosecution and the defense, the Corona media interview was "sub judice."

Going to media, out court

"What is unfortunate is that the defense had long been doing the same but it was always the prosecution who has always been charged with trial by publicity despite the similarly numerous press conferences of the defense," Colmenares said.

He said it was clear that Corona was afraid of testifying in the impeachment court and would rather say through the media where he cannot be cross-examined and he can choose to avoid answering damaging questions like his link to Subaru President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

90-year-old nun willing to testify in impeachment trial

From page A1

Sister Pilar said the other BGEI shareholders had assured Gutierrez of withholding the books of the BGEI since the 1980s, Gutierrez mother, Asuncion, now deceased, was among the five original shareholders. Criminal Information Sheet No. 1 filed by Gutierrez against Corona and his wife Cristina.

Sister Pilar's affidavit is the latest in the Senate impeachment court witnessed from her convent in Mandaluyong City.

Gutierrez filed the affidavit on Monday, March 5, a day after the Supreme Court ordered the Senate impeachment court to allow the presentation of evidence on the bank accounts of Corona and his wife.

The high court's decision is the latest twist in the Senate impeachment trial of Corona, which has been dragging on for more than a month.

Corona also insisted that his witness in the Senate impeachment court be excused from his testimonial duties as the high court's decision to disclose the SALN is because most of the books Luisa is in Sr. GELI, which belonged to Corona.

"It's up to God"

Mexican still world's richest man

NEW YORK—Time made the list on the strength of gizzle sales, another powered by electric sports cars. Still others lost billions or fell off the list altogether thanks to the weak global economy and the greatness of financial markets.

Forbes magazine released its annual tally of billionaires on Wednesday, reporting that a record 1,226 people around the globe have a net worth in the 10 digits. That's up 1 percent from last year's total.

But it wasn't an easy year for the super rich—about 441 far saw their net wealth during the year, nearly equal to the 461 who expanded their fortunes. And today's version, 380, held steady according to the magazine.

The group's total combined net worth is up 2 percent at $4.6 trillion. The average worth of a list member is $3.7 billion.

SLIM: $69B

GATES: $61B

BUFFET: $44B

ARNAULT: $41B

ORTEGA: $37.5B

ELLISON: $36B

BETTENCOURT: $31B

PERSSON: $26B

KI: $25.5B

Familiar faces

The top of the list contains many of the same names from recent years.

Carlos Slim of Mexico remained the world's richest man for the third year in a row with a $69 billion fortune, down $5 billion from last year. Forbes attributed the drop in Slim's fortune to the decline in share prices for regional cell phone carrier América Movil, his largest holding.

Bill Gates of Microsoft Corp. came in second at $61 billion, up $5 billion as his company's shares hit a 10-year high. And billionaire Buffet of Berkshire Hathaway came in at third place with a $44 billion fortune, down $6 billion from the prior year.

New names

There were a number of interesting new faces on the list as well.

Elon Musk, a cofounder of PayPal and founder of Tesla Motors, joined the list as the world's 634th richest person as the value of stock in his electric car company rose.

The widow of Apple's Steve Jobs, Laurene Powell Jobs, took her spot on the list.

But one of the most interesting additions was Jana Blakely the founder of women's clothing underpinnings company Spanx Inc., who joined the list this year. At age 41, Blakely is the world's youngest self-made female billionaire.

Biggest losers

It wasn't the worst year on record but a few folks on the list lost a great deal of wealth. Lenovo reaped from $1B0 million to $3.04 billion, according to the magazine. And of the 441 people who lost money, at least 81 people lost more than $1 billion.

The biggest loser was Lakshmi Mittal of India, owner of the world's biggest steel company. His net worth dropped $16.6 billion, leaving him with $20.7 billion. He's still one of the richest men in Asia, but his company struggled with low demand and high costs.

Other losers include Olleg Deripaska of Russia, whose net worth is roughly half what it was last year as lower prices for aluminum and shunning dented hurt the stock price of his company, United Co.

More billionaires in US

The United States is still home to the most billionaires in the world with 425. But there are more billionaires in 58 countries from Peru to Morocco.

Russia and China follow the United States but have fewer billionaires this year at 95 and 96 respectively, down from 110 and 115 who made the list last year. AP

Sy leads 5 Pinoys in Forbes' richest list

From page B1

Forbes published on March 7 its latest gallery of the world's richest people, an all-time high 1,226 billionaires, who were worth a record $4.6 trillion. Fifteen the magazine started this tradition of counting billionaires, the world 25 years ago there were only 140 names.

At the top of Forbes' global list is Mexican Carlos Slim, 72, who has an estimated net worth of $69 billion. Microsoft founder Bill Gates, 56, the second and investment guru Warren Buffet, 81, chair of Berkshire Hathaway third.

Sy and family ranked 116th richest in the world, remaining the richest in the wealthiest men in the Philippines. Forbes estimated his net worth at $8 billion.

SY: $8B

LUCIO TAN: $2.5B

ANDREW TAN: $1.1B

RAZON: $1.3B

COJUANGCO: $1.2B

ONGPIN: $1B

Banking, retailing

The 87-year-old Sy heads SM Investments, the dominant player in Philippine banking, retailing and shopping mall development. It is also a fast-growing player in residential and tourism-oriented property development. Sy's group has recently added mining to its portfolio.

Lucio Tan and family ranked 116th on the list with an estimated net worth of $2.5 billion. Lucio Tan, 77, has interests in tobacco and liquor manufacturing, airline, property and banking. He has vast property interests in mainland China and is likewise a big investor in Luzon.

Property tycoon Andrew Tan ranked 615th on the global list with a net worth of $1.1 billion. Andrew Tan, 58, built a fortune on real estate development, particularly in offering high-rise residential units to the mass market and in pioneering mixed-use developments to attract business process-outsourcing firms.

He has also successfully ventured into the gaming business in partnership with the Genting group of Malaysia. He likewise has consumer-based interests, including a beverage unit and the Philippine chain of Mcdonald's fast food chains.

Port operations

Razon, 52, is the fourth and the youngest tycoon from the Philippines with an international reach of interest. Forbes estimated his net worth at $1.3 billion. He has built a fortune on international port operations.

Razon has unloaded his interest in the country's electricity transmission superhighway and is now building a casino-hotel complex in Pagcor City. He also has an interest in oil exploration.

Cojuangco, 78, is the fifth Philippine tycoon on the list with a global rank of 968th. The 78-year-old chair of San Miguel Corp. (SMC) has an estimated net worth of $1.2 billion.

Cojuangco has a 15-percent stake in San Miguel which has diversified from its traditional food and beverage businesses into power generation, power distribution (via a majority but significant stake in Manila Electric Co.), oil refining, mining, toll road, airport, banking and telecommunications.

Ongpin's Ashmore

Ongpin, 75, is ranked 1,158th on the list with an estimated net worth of $1 billion. Ongpin brought in London-based Ashmore as a partner in Philippine investments in recent years. Apart from his investment in the biggest Philippine corp., Ongpin is into real estate, mining and recently is into banking.

Compared to last year, by Lucio and Andrew Tan and Razon were worth $1.3 billion, $2.3 billion and $1.1 billion, respectively. With the local stock market outperforming most bourses in the region, the market capitalization of their respective companies has surged.

Counting walls

"The Philippines' richest man, despite a stumble in his father's footsteps (remember?) and then opened a class store. He now controls the Philippines' largest mall developer, with 32 locations has five in China, including one that opened last year. Shares in SM Investments, which makes up half of his fortune, popped 50 percent in the past year. HDO Unibank, run by daughter Teresita Sy-Coson, is the country's largest bank," Forbes said.

HDO is worth over P1 billion, the first local bank to breach the mark in the country. The Sys also own another big bank, Chinn Bank, which is run by the tycoon's sons. The retailing group, operating through a chain of SM Department stores, Supermarkets, malls and Savemore, had a turnover of P94B.2 billion in 2011.

Tobacco king

Forbes described Lucio Tan as a "tobacco king" holding over a third of Philip Morris because Fortune Tobacco and Philip Morris. The combined entity has an estimated 68 percent share of the Philippine cigarette market. Philip Morris is the country's second largest beer maker, according to Forbes.

"A big chunk of Fortune comes from Hong Kong based Asia Properties," the magazine said.

"He got his start as a chemical engineer and mapped Boeits to pay for school. Tan enjoys flying helicopters," Forbes said.

The publication noted reports that Lucio Tan was in talks to bring in San Miguel to help refurbish the aging fleet of Philippine Airlines. Is discounted that three of Tan's companies, Eton Properties, Tanduay Holdings and PAL Holdings, based debuting by the Philippine Stock Exchange for failing to maintain a 10-percent public float.

Second casino

"Son of a factory worker, Andrew Tan did odd jobs to put himself through college. Saved money he turned as a kitchen appliance salesman to buy a distillery and made his first fortune in brandy. His holding company, Alliance Global, has interests in food and beverage, real estate and gaming. With partner Genting Malaysia, he plans to build a second casino in Pasay City this year," Forbes said.

Cojuangco was described by Forbes as a "former Marcos crony" who controls San Miguel, a food and beverage conglomerate best known for its beer. Forbes noted that San Miguel had spun off its brewery unit last year, diversifying into power, infrastructure and heavy industry.

"In 2010, he sold an option to a group of investors to buy him out for an undisclosed sum. The country's Supreme Court has ruled that Ramon S. San Miguel, whom the Presidential Commission on Good Government had alleged he got because of his links with the former dictator, wasn't ill-gotten," Forbes said.

To unload 15%

The investors reported in May 2010 that Cojuangco had made plans to unload his entire 15 percent equity in San Miguel in favor of trusted allies.

The option to buy his shares for P75 per share was given to a holding firm, Top Frontier Investment Holdings. The holding firm is 49-percent owned by San Miguel itself as reported by Forbes. Cojuangco's trusted lieutenants and consultant company president Ramon Ang. An investor group, which includes Ongpin, Hijo Zabel and consultants Jose Joselito Campos, controls 51 percent.

Forbes noted that Ongpin, a former minister of finds during the Marcos regime, had investments in property, gaming, mining and telecommunications. If the interest in telecoms was recorded will be San Miguel and Ongpin invested took a controlling stake in Philippine Bank of Communications.

Ongpin heads Top Frontier, the entity with a reputation in mining in Miguel. "Last November he appointed before a Senate inquiry over a loan from a state-owned development bank, which he claims was above board. He's a certified public accountant and Harvard business school graduate," Forbes said.

Aside from the interests mentioned by Forbes, Ongpin has an interest in media being the deputy chair of South China Morning Post in Hong Kong.

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BUY 1 GET 1 win

Pagunsan tees off in Cadillac Championship

DORAL, Florida—Juvic Pagunsan finally gets to sit his shirt against the world's top golfers when he joins a select field at 7 morning (8 tonight in the Philippines) today at the TPC Blue Monster course. The reigning Asian Tour Order of Merit champion is paired with Francesco Molinari of Italy and Marcus Fraser of Australia in the 12:20 p.m. flight, three groups behind the 11:40 a.m. threesome of world No. 1 Rory McIlroy, No. 2 Luke Donald and No. 11 Lee Westwood. **Asian Tour News**

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoste

SPORTS

Texters ready to battle back

Cup leaders take on Energy

By Mycaryl B. Castillo

DEFENDING champion Talk 'N Text has three Rookie Ball rookie, two nights after getting thrashed by an unbeaten counterpart, as it vows to stay in the lead in the elimination round of the PBA Commissioner's Cup.

Game time is 5:35 p.m. at the Cuneta Astrodome as many with the Texters still tied to favorites, even as the 2-1 ranks a followup to its unconvincing start of TNT by taking on Alaska in the 7:30 p.m. game.

The Express pulled off the upset of the conference on Wednesday night, an 80-74 escapade of the Texters despite getting just five points from import Marcus Douthit.

Talk 'N Text fielded a new import in that game in Donnell Harvey, who fired 22 points and collected 20 rebounds. But the locals were out of sync as the Texters were held down to their season-low output.

A repeat of that fare against the Energy could prove disastrous for the Texters who arguably cannot afford another loss considering that the result is among the tiebreakers.

Harvey showed a penchant for fighting for possession underneath. He also had 10 offensive boards against the Express, but many of them came from his own misses.

The former rebounding champion in the Chinese league could find life harder against Anthony Mason and the Energy though. On Wednesday, Harvey missed half of his 11 attempts from the field.

Douthit was under the weather against the Texters but still gave it his all. He will have to contend with Adam Parada, the 7-foot-1 who has been one of the reasons why the Aces are in second spot.

"Down the road, we certainly need to get a lot more offensively from Harvey," Talk 'N Text coach Norman Pumaren said.

Pumaren's locals more than hold their own against the Texters with four of them finishing in twin digits. And after the victory that ended the team's 11-game losing streak over the Philippine Cup, Pumaren is now entertaining thoughts of making the playoffs.

"It's fine to dream about it anyway," he said.

JOJO Duncil of Alaska (left) goes for a layup under pressure from TNT's Jayeth Aguilar in Wednesday's game won by the Express. ALEX BADAYOS

MisOr pugs rule Nat'l Amateur tilt

By Roy Luarca

TAGBILARAN CITY—Prime prospect Jerald Lucot and Jessmore Flores reasserted their respective rivals in Wednesday night's finals to complete Misamis Oriental's sweep in the 2012 PSTT-Bingo National Open Boxing Championships at the Cogon Gymnasium here.

Their triumphs raised MisOr's golden haul to seven, five fists of Thirdboy, Dennis del Norte, and General Santos City.

Thirdboy and Davao del Norte have similar three silvers, but the fighters from Quezon have more bronzes, 7-2. Cavite has lost two.

Flandazer captured two golds, two silvers and a bronze to lead Cebu City (11-1), Bingo City (2-0-2, Tagbilaran 3-2-2, Misamis Pueblo, 3-1-0, Lapu 3-1-0, and Calinging 1-0-1.

Lucot whupped General Santos' Ronnie Tendilon, 30-27, in the 49-kilogram elite light flyweight class to emerge best boxer in his division while Flores ousted Amanecio's Leslie Dumanjog, 14-7, for the youth girls 46 kg title.

Tagbilaran's Junel Mark Antiola is the boys' youth division, Gentlan's lady Bureau in junior boys and Tendilon' Jessan Hilmanda in the women's class.

Other late bouts saw Misamis Oriental's Kimberly Lalaga from Asuncion's Kimberly Edillo, 22-12, for the youth girls' featherweight title, and Gentlan's Febber Bancolas upset Mandaue's Thirdboy Cecilio, 9-7 in elite flyweight. Bon Lucero of Cebu City outpointed Tagbilaran's Jeffrey Lagura, 9-7 for the youth boys' featherweight title, and Gentlan's Jeffrey Bancolas upset Mandaue's Thirdboy Cecilio, 9-7 in elite flyweight. Tagbilaran's Junel Mark Antiola (right) connects a left hook to Gentlan's Jeffrey Bancolas during their bout in the elite flyweight division of the Philippine Sports Commission-Philippine Sports Training Center-Bingo National Open Championships at the Cogon Gymnasium in Tagbilaran City on Wednesday night. Antiola won by unanimous decision. ROY LUARCA

Embattled Azkals open AFC bid vs N. Koreans today

By Cedelf P. Rupa

BATHSHEBA—As if a controversy back home is not enough, the Philippines-staff also have to deal with the squad's pledged to go all the way to the AFC Challenge Cup as it opens its campaign here today.

Defending champion North Korea, 20-16 World Cup qualifier, tests the Azkals, who will miss some of their finest players in the start of Group B play at 5 p.m. (Manila time) at Hatchwells Stadium.

The Azkals are considered greenhorns in the international level, and goalkeeper Neil Etheridge believes no less than a perfect performance is needed for the Philippines to stand a chance against a team that will be parading seven players from their World Cup side.

"Our concentration for 90 minutes will have to be spot-on and there won't be a moment for us to relax," Etheridge said.

Reinaldo Lacsina counters for the Azkals since leaving for the Himalayan country last Friday to acclimatize.

Two of its key players—Angel Guirado and Lorenzo Moy—have been accused by AFC match commissioner Crissy Ramos of sexual harassment during the pre-match inspection in the friendly against Malaysia last Feb. 20.

Azkals coach Michael Weiss admitted that preparations for the biennial meeting must have been far from ideal.

And with FB German midfield reserve Stephan Schrock, experienced leftback Dennis Cagara, defender Aly Borromeo and Jerry Lucena unavailable, the Azkals are left with a teammate to think in their lineup that also includes former champion midfielder Phil Younghusband and the talented injured Chieffy Caligdong.

Etheridge, who sparkled in the 1-1 draw against Malaysia, believes the pressure will be on the North Koreans, who were the title in 2003 in Ho Lunda.

"North Korea has been in larger competitions and it is important that our countrymen on our games are there," the Fulham reserve keeper said.

PFF president Mariano Araneta cannot help but overemphasize the importance of a good result against North Korea.

"I think it's a challenge for the boys to give their best, especially with what's happening now in Manila," said Araneta.

UP's Pau Dandoy (left) vies to block DLS-Clarin-ee Pau' Jennifer Phesans.

Letran's Tadeo-Cu upsets UP tandem

DASMARIÑAS, Cavite—Letran's Jessica Mae Tadeo and Melissa Cu teamed up well to pull off a 25-21 win over the favored University of the Philippines pair of Amanda Christine Imeh and Kiesa Joyce del Rosario on the start of the 10th Premier Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament's first leg in the men's division of the De La Salle Health and Science campus.

The win put the Lady Knights on top in Group B of the tournament supported by Hillcon Bulk, Speedo and DLS Health and Science Institute.

Tadeo, a continuing management junior like Cu, said their pre-match strategy on long- and short-ball reception paid off.

Last year's finalist of the Champions' winners University of the East, made up of Jessica Perez and Francelyn Cua, stunned DLS-Diamondhot standouts Jed Vergara and Mabel Dimaguiba, 25-13.

National junior team player Jennifer Mancenido and Camille Deocadiz, also of DLS-Diamondhot, stamped their class in Group A following a 21-12 win of UP bets Shalize Gerodo and Lissabel Tan.

Joining the Lady Patriots for the early Group A lead were Letran-Tri Cetin Andaya and Sarah Jane Tagaytay, who had little trouble getting past San Beda 2's Kim de la Vega and Debbie Ordoy, 21-13.

Time to calm down

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Sev Sarmenta

A VIRTUAL banner's race has been stirred with the COMELEC-Kontra-Ads issue.

Even people who have nothing to do with sports have an opinion on the matter. Some are stating that the Azkals should have been more discerning in that Kontra-Ads/Chavit fiasco. It is a different story as much communication.

Still, some say that it was all about sportsfair exuberance but others still think it was all about being responsible as a sports official.

The disciplinary committee of the Asian Football Confederation will investigate and render its decision in time. But the issue has already divided the public because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Whether it is a normal harassment or not will be determined. And decided by those who have an understanding of these matters. In sports, we need to get clarity from both parties involved. We have already heard what Kontra has allegedly experienced in the Azkals' locker room. In time, we should hear what the Azkals have to say.

The issue is not about destroying what the Azkals have gained so far as investigating how a ball in the country is conducted, but rather preserving it. If the Azkals or some of them are at fault, then the proper sanctions should be imposed against them.

If the case does not push forward, there perhaps the most best thing is for all concerned to let more sensitive to such other in the future so that both sides can present their best behavior when they meet again in the same contest or in other places and times.

Sensitive issues are for the proper thing to do for the moment as we await the deliberations of the AFC. We must not add more fuel to other than it already raging.

It is understandable if some will claim that the situation was merely taken more personal or if certain individuals and groups pick up the cudgels for Kontra.

A democracy allows people to voice mutual and different views. But there must also be tangible respect since one opinion does not hold many over the other side.

I disagree, though, with one comment that Kontra is just trying to be important, "major player-ee" one source said in the online version of the issue.

Let us not forget that Kontra is a sports official who knows her business and should be accorded the respect due her.

If she made perceived mistakes in doing her job, then she is entitled to the same presumption of innocence. Philippine football today does not need an issue of this magnitude during its rebuilding.

They must deal with it squarely though, and again, not dismiss this issue as an attack on their republican game.

No one or any organization is immune from a crisis in the public domain. It must be dealt with maturely and with a measure of objectivity so that lessons can be learned and remembered.

Fantilaga, Jopson top Vasseline Men Xterra Pang run

CARLITO Fantilaga and Jocelyn Jopson conquered the elite event of Timberland Heights to win the 22K division of the Vasseline Men Xterra Pang Run held recently in San Mateo, Rizal.

Fantilaga finished the men's race in one hour, 40 minutes and 56 seconds, nearly 30 minutes ahead of Wilfredo Cruz (2:10:22). Third place Mike Abad (clocked 2:12:15).

In the women's division, Jopson finished 2:36:03 to easily beat Ellen Cortes, who clocked 2:53:01, and Bea Supornavarro (2:57:46).

The race, which had more than 300 participants, was the first leg of the Xterra Off-Road Triathlon Series. Likewise Cebu will host the second leg on March 17 and 18.

Consolation Men O Kalikasan bested all 300 male runners with a time of 41:32 with San Mateo Rizalist High School's Angelo Pinto second in 49:51 and Jose Corral third in 51:48.

Kristine Dolfo topped the Gatas! side in 1:13:06, followed by magazine editor Lou Dayao (1:16:05) and Dharmalyn Dalson (1:20:21).

Noel Bernardino, Rommel Bello and Orlando Ilip Jr. placed 1-2-3 in the men's 50.

The female podium finishers were Corazon Bolante (20s 40), Erika Joy Santisbal (40-11) and Anna Jessipanda Pugo.

The top-spot group finishers of the 22K trail runs in Cebu on March 17 will qualify for the world championships slated in Hawaii in October.

CARLITO Fantilaga and Jocelyn Jopson on the podium with Vasseline Men brand manager Jonathan Poe (right).

Handsome hole-in-one prizes at WW

A GRAND-SLAM Mercedes Benz C180 Classic and a Lexus CT200 h are up for grabs in the 23rd Mt. Sinai Golf Classic, which WW's signature tournament which golf under way Wednesday at the Club and at the courses of the Manila Polo Club.

The M-Benz car, courtesy of Cars Makati, is the hole-in-one prize at No. 3 of the West layout while the Lexus is on offer at the East course's No. 16 of the 36-hole tourney. Both cars have been parked at the entrance of the founding father Williams J. Shaw.

Other hole-in-one prizes are a Jeep Patriot on hand from Cars Makati, a Yamaha Golf Cart from Kott Pilipinas and a Titleist driver from Dunlop Sports Corp., while Charm Sports Exhibitions and a Pendleton Golf Cart from Club Car, and a Texas Light Golf Cart from Turf & Co.

Patriots fire 'misbehaving' Bates

By Jasmine W. Payo

MEAT Stay Bates failed to make the most out of his second chance to create an impact in the local mga scene as the Alaska Philippine Patriots fired the former NBA great from their coaching staff.

The Patriots dropped Bates as their skills development coach "for repeated misconduct and acts detrimental to the team and to the league."

"We've chosen to help him but he's misbehaving of late and we have no other option but to sever our ties with him," said team manager Edith Surjoto. "I already warned him before but he missed several of our practices and made acts detrimental to other mga of the team."

Considered as one of the best imports ever to play in the PBA, Bates battled with alcohol and drugs in the 1990s and also spent several years in prison in the United States for assault charges.

Known in the PBA as the "Black Superman," Bates looked set to start a new life when he accepted the offer to join the Patriots in the Asean Basketball League following his induction to the NBA Hall of Fame last October.

But Bates would not be couldn't keep out of trouble with a reported assault incident in his condominium unit among his recent misdemeanor.

Bates' agent, Sheryl Reyes, said her client and the Patriots "parted professionally" and the "issue was resolved."

"It's very sad that it had to end this way, but, as we all know, Billy is a survivor and he will survive," Reyes said in a statement.

BATES

The Fatriots, though, hope to keep their team on their toes and shoot against the Indonesia Pantone this Saturday in Jakarta.

The ranch kicks off a tough three road-game stretch when the Patriots (7-2) travel to keep their status of the top spot.

But the Patriots also have to do without top scorers Anthony Johnson, Erick Rodriguez and Andy Lacsing in their Wednesday game against the Saigon Heat as the three serve a one-game suspension.

The three, along with San Miguel 3-Mike Hernandez and Jimpoo Cabatu, were slapped with a one-game ban for fighting in a bench-clearing brawl in the game won by the Beermen, 86-80, last Sunday.

Lakers, Clippers fall

Wizards forge rally; Nets win via last-gasp trey

NEWARK, New Jersey—Jordan Farmar sunk a last-second three-pointer to lift the New Jersey Nets to a 101-100 win over the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday as the rockers missed a chance to leapfrog city rivals the Lakers.

The Nets, who were just 3-13 at home this season, forged an 16-point advantage in the third quarter and held off a fierce comeback by the Clippers, led by high-flying forward Blake Griffin and his dreaming guard Randy Foye, to score the upset.

Trailing 71-103 with a little more than a quarter remaining, the Clippers rallied thanks once back and took their first lead since early in the game when Chris Paul sank two free throws with 10 seconds remaining to put Los Angeles ahead, 100-99.

Farmar's classic drew praises, off a spot-on bounce pass from Deron Williams, dropped the Clippers' 121-115 chance of taking the Pacific Division lead from the Lakers (33-15), who were upset 106-101 by the Washington Wizards after squandering a 21-point third-quarter lead.

"What a great pass by Deron," Nets coach Avery Johnson told reporters. "What a great set-him, on target pass, and Jordan probably made the biggest shot this year for us."

Point guard Williams led the Nets (15-27) with 23 points, while Griffin paced the Clippers with 28 points, including three resounding dunks in the third quarter, while Foye added 24.

Clippers All-Star guard Chris Paul suggested the visitors may have been guilty of taking the Nets lightly.

"It was a lack of urgency, a lack of defensive intensity," said Paul, who scored 22 points and registered 10 assists. "We were giving up everything, threes, layups, leads. We fought an uphill battle."

Paul said the Clippers had to get into gear in order to make a splash in the playoffs.

"In the Western Conference, you can go from the third seed to the eighth seed in one week," he said. "We've got to get some wins because everyone is gaining on us."

Los Angeles coach Vinny Del Negro said: "I'm happy with the way the guys fought. I don't like frustrating to see somebody run that position and not be able to execute when we needed to.

In Washington, Roger Mason led a spirited fourth-quarter comeback and Gilbert Arenas had his shooting touch down the stretch as the Washington Wizards rallied from a 21-point deficit Wednesday night to stun the Los Angeles Lakers 106-101.

Mason hit three triples in the fourth quarter, turning what had been a dreary Lakers victory into an emotionally raucous show of home support for a team that is 23 games below .500. The same action that worked to "MVP" for Bryant in the first half was following "Beat LAL" in the third quarter.

Reuters, AP

NEW Jersey big man Kris Humphries (left) tries to put up a shot against high-flying Los Angeles Clippers superstar Blake Griffin. —

Barbosa top PH finisher in Vietnam chess

GRANDMASTER Oliver Barbosa defeated compatriot and fellow GM John Paul Gomez to become the top Filipino finisher in the 32nd HD Bank Cup International Open Chess tournament 2012 at the HD Bank Head office in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam last Wednesday.

Barbosa ended his sixth game with the black pieces, absorbing up to a queen for the eighth to 14th places with five wins, two loses and two draws.

GM Ni Hua of China drew with GM Nguyen Ngoc Truong Son of Vietnam in the final round to capture the title plus the top $30,000 prize.

Ni clinched it with 8 points, half a point ahead of solo second place GM Le Quang Liem of Vietnam.

Truong Son, meanwhile finished in a tie for 3rd to 7th places with GM Xie Haobin and Wen Yangqin of China, IM Nguyen Anh Huy and GM Ta Hoang Thong of Vietnam.

Pascual Castle chess slated

SPARC national and high school chess teams from all over Metro Manila and nearby provinces gear up for the 2nd Pascual Castle Invitational Chess Team Cup slated on March 11 and 18 at the Ateneo de Manila University professional campus.

For details, call (02) 423-6011 to 19 local 5504/44. Deadline of registrations is March 16.

ITF U14 seeds hold sway

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE TOP seeds took their respective places in the boys' semifinals yesterday even as three Chinese girls stunned into the quarterfinals of the ITF/ATF Asia 14-under tennis championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Fifth-seeded second of South Korea, the No. 1 seed, and second pick Wu Ting Jun of China Taipei needed three sets each to overcome their quarterfinal opponents, while third seed Cho Yun-seong of South Korea and No. 4 Zhang Ting Chen of China also advanced with straight-set wins.

Cho came back from a first set debacle to force a deciding set and win when Wang Ching-yang of Chinese Taipei retired after dropping the first games of the third due to the oppressive heat. He will next face Zhang, who advanced against Taiwanese Wang Hsiang-yao, 6-3, 6-0.

Wu downed fifth seed Jacobek Kasimov of Uzbekistan, 2-6, 6-3, 6-1 to book a semis match against Cho, who ousted Thai seventh pick Nawaksan-khajan, 6-2, 7-5.

Smashing the girls' quarterfinals were top seed Li Puxit, Yan Qiaoching and Cao Siqi.

Li outscored Hong Kong's Jasmin Yuen Shi Chun, 6-0, 6-1, and will next face Thailand's Supharat Eamsangkarn, who downed Nutnisa Pitakpas of Sri Lanka, 6-2, 6-2.

Yan pulled off a 7-5, 5-7, 6-2 upset over second seed Gae Dohee of Korea to meet top opponent Kazakhstan's Gainel Aitmbetova, who ousted Thai Tanyaporn Chen Tan-Anal, 6-7 (13-11), 6-3, 6-0.

Fifth seed Cao scored an impressive 6-2, 6-2 win over Fil-American Meredith Jones to arrange a semifinal date with India's Ojasvi Rawat, who eliminated Kamila Irmanova of Uzbekistan, 6-4, 6-1.

Curtains fall on UAAP 74

By Jasmine W. Payo

A FESTIVE pyrotechnic competition brings Season 74 of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) to a close this Saturday at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) forum in Pasay City.

La Salle's Dance Company Green, the inaugural winner last year, aims for a repeat romp in the festive celebration of the closing ceremony that will also formally honor the overall league champion and this season's Most Valuable Player/s.

Season 74 powerhouse Ateneo Blue Eagles of four-time Alaska Aces will also turn over the gavel of hosting duties to NCAA for next season's presidential Nite Olympics.

UST will take centerstage anew after sweeping the general championship by capturing its 14th straight and 38th overall crown in the season 74 basketball and 6th straight title in the juniors side.

Tiu likely out as Clark speedway hosts drag race

DRAG racing takes the spotlight as over 100 top speedsters compete for the titles at stake in the second leg of the 2012 Philippine Drag Racing Championships/Northern Series at the Clark International Speedway tomorrow.

It will be another wild showdown in the Quick 8, the Mile Super Gas and the Mild Pro classes with the possible no-show of points leader Jonathan Tiu of JCT Rancho Racing in the event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

Tiu could cause the event to garner the death of his friend and teammate Anthony Go, who succumbed to heart attack at age 38.

Drag Racing director Fil Gallo urges all drivers to come early for the drivers' briefing at 8 a.m. where rules and regulations and other pertinent issues matters will be discussed.

And with the expected huge field joining the races, Gallo strongly suggests that drivers arrive much earlier to enjoy more time to test and adjust their car setups in the qualifying runs.

Drivers are also urged to observe utmost safety with the strict implementation of safety gears like helmets, race suits and the required roll cages to their cars especially for those competing in higher classes that runs 12-second or faster.

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Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

THE AVERAGE monthly crime rate in the National Capital Region last year was 22.83 for every population of 100,000, according to the Philippine National Police.
Zaldi Dimlati, Inquirer Research

Female dentists' molester gets life term for one case

'Verdict big triumph for us'

By Jaymee T. Gamil

THE SUSPECT in the series of robbery-molestations of several female dentists in their clinics last year was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday for one of the cases filed against him.

Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 42 Judge Dimiah Yoro-cio Bunyi found Albert Ganing de la Cruz "guilty beyond reasonable doubt" for the robbery-rape of a victim in Paco, Manila, last year.

The complaint was filed by two female dentists, who were robbed in their clinic on Pedro Gil Street on May 26. De la Cruz had pretended to be a patient and had struck when the two were alone in the office.

Brandishing a knife and a gun, he tied them up, robbed them of cash, jewelry and gadgets, and even raped the older dentist, before fleeing.

Since then, a spate of similar cases of robbery-molestation were reported in Metro Manila, particularly Quezon City, and even the nearby provinces.

De la Cruz was arrested in his home in San Pedro City three months after the Paco heist. He admitted to the crimes, saying he did it as revenge on the medical profession for a friend's death.

Tapayoca sentenced De la Cruz to reclusion perpetua for the 9th robbery-rape, without eligibility for parole, pursuant to Republic Act No. 9346, or the act prohibiting the death penalty.

He also ordered him to return the stolen jewelry to the two dentists, or pay them the value of the stolen items amounting to P195,500.

He was also directed to pay his rape victim P75,000 as civil indemnity, P75,000 as moral damages and P50,000 as exemplary damages.

Philippine Dental Association president Roberto Tajonera said the verdict was a "big triumph for us."

"After the damage that was done to our female Filipino dentists, and the stress and tension we all suffered, at least justice has been served," he said.

Tajonera said they hoped the successful verdict in the Paco case would just be the first.

The other victims had filed their complaints against De la Cruz in their respective areas.

Pangasinan politician, wife shot dead in Manila

By Jaymee T. Gamil

IT WAS their last family dinner together.

A Dagupan-based couple were killed by a lone gunman in Sampaloc, Manila, on Wednesday evening, upon reaching their home after having dinner in a restaurant with their son.

Ramon Guiman, 53, was a former vice mayor of Lingayen in Pangasinan province, while Zenaburga, also 53, was the chairwoman of Barangay Poblacion, also in Lingayen.

The couple were in the city to celebrate with their son, Jason Louis, who was set to enter medical school, Manila Police District Homicide section chief Senior Insp. Joselito Ocampo said.

The Guimans arrived in Manila on Wednesday and had no bodyguards with them, he added.

Joel Raymond Antinac, another son of the couple, told police his parents had been received an ambush in March 2011 in Binmaley, also in Pangasinan.

He said the ambush was believed to have been perpetrated by a losing rival of Zenaburga's.

The unidentified assassin shot the couple in an apartment on A. Mendoza Street where they were staying at around 10:50 p.m., said Police Station 4 commander Supt. Rolando Balcazabar.

After having dinner with his parents and a companion at Mall of Asia in Pasay City, Jason Louis dropped off the couple at the lumpinee apartment before driving off to his own home.

The suspect apparently struck after the car had left. Residents of the neighborhood told police they heard the voices of a female, believed to be Zenaburga, and a male, who could have been her assassin, arguing before they heard two gunshots.

Ramon was later found slumped on the wall adjacent the gate, with a gunshot wound at the back of his head. Zenaburga, who was found in front of the door of the apartment, was killed by a gunshot wound on her forehead. The fatal shots came from a .45-caliber gun.

The couple were rushed to the University of Santo Tomas Hospital but were declared dead on arrival.

Witnesses were apparently asked to stop the assisted suspect as he hurriedly fled toward España Boulevard where he was seen boarding a motorbound Fairview-Quiapo bus.

Police have yet to determined the motive for the killing in Manila, or if it is linked to the ambush of the couple last year.

New flyover linking BGC to C5 now open

By Nathaniel R. Mabazza

A NEW flyover connecting Bonifacio Global City (BGC) to the newly-widened Lawton (C5) Road will not only reduce traffic problems in the area, but is also expected to enhance business prospects in the booming business district.

The flyover, for the use of both public and private vehicles, was opened a few hours after the inauguration ceremonies yesterday.

Aurelio Fruto Bartolome, councilor for the second district of Taguig City, said the interchange, which starts on 32nd Street and ends before the elevated U-turn near the Kalayaan-C5 intersection, will help bring in more commuters to commercial establishments in the area.

"In [nineteen] years through, it is inevitable that they would come to certain retail establishments. That's where the city benefits...by passenger created by traffic and taxes that the establishments pay us," Bartolome told reporters at the opening of the flyover yesterday morning.

Antonio Chipeco, president of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC), the main developer of Bonifacio Global City, said that the new link will help increase the value of properties in the area by improving access to their areas.

"Real property is a question of location, and location is enhanced by access. We've made efforts to connect Fort Bonifacio from Makati City via McKinley Road and the Kalayaan Flyover. This is an effort to improve connectivity with C5, contributing to the overall development of the area," he said.

The project is touted as a public-private partnership between FBDC for the private sector, and the Bases Conversion and Development Authority for the government. Construction of the flyover took eight months from July 2011 up to February 2012, and cost between P350 and P375 million.

The 1609-meter, two-lane interchange is expected to complement Lampagnis Bridge, connecting 26th Street with C5, the main entry and exit point of vehicles going to C5 coming from Fort Bonifacio.

While vehicles coming from the southbound side of C5 can directly go to 32nd Street through the entry ramp, before the flyover, motorists plying 32nd Street would have to go around Market Market to take the Lampagnis exit to C5.

"Half of the traffic passing through 32nd Street is just passing through. With the interchange, people from the north or the east now have easier access going to C5," Bartolome said.

Manuel Blas II, head of commercial operations for the FBDC, said they are studying the possibility of constructing more interchanges with C5 in the future.

THE 609-meter two-lane, one-way flyover serving as an exit point from Bonifacio Global City to the northbound lane of Circumferential Road 5 (C-5) can now be used by both public and private vehicles.

'I only had P40 in wallet,' claims janitor nabbed for condo rob

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE JANITOR who was allegedly behind a string of robberies in a condominium complex in Old Balara, Quezon City, said he only had P40 in his wallet when he was nabbed by policemen Wednesday.

Abel Hamsavinia, 34, who was arrested on suspicion that he had stolen over P22 million in cash and valuables from at least four condominium units of Mariners Celebrity Place Condominium Complex since October, denied he had anything to do with the robbery.

"I would never do that. I just want to work. When I was arrested, I only had P40 in my wallet. The money was for my transportation fare and for food," the janitor said.

"If I had the money, they said I stole, why should I be still working there? I would leave and enjoy the money. But I am still working here and it's been four years now," he said.

He also pointed out that he had been working in the condominium complex for the last four years, but the robbery incidents began only last year.

SPO4 Allan de la Cruz, head of the theft and robbery section of the Quezon City Police District, said Hamsavinia underwent inquest proceedings on Wednesday evening.

The inquest official had recommended a filing of investigation of the case, in connection with the robbery incidents in the condominium complex.

Hamsavinia, however, denied the charges, saying he left his building in his native Bicol region before boarding a taxi on Monday.

But Hamsavinia denied this.

"If he says no, he says a lot, then he should have stopped me and should have taken me to the custody," he said.

METROBRIEFS

Fake mole a giveaway

IMMIGRATION agents yesterday intercepted at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport a woman with a fake mole who was trying to leave the country using the passport of another woman. The woman, whose name was withheld by Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David Jr., was identified by a woman who had been a fellow passenger on the last immigration officers learned she had no hotel reservation and could not state her purpose for going to Singapore. Immigration officers then noticed discrepancies in the facial features of the passport-photograph. The passport photograph "She was told to wipe her face with a handkerchief which caused the removal of the fake mole," he said. The passenger was turned over to the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking at the Naia for investigation. David said the anti-trafficking law forbids the public disclosure of the names of human trafficking victims. Jerome Aning

WD40 donation

REPRESENTATIVES from WD40, the world's No. 1 brand of multi-purpose lubricant, along with officials from Philippine Disaster Company recently turned over donations to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. The donations, worth more than P1 million, were handed over by WD40 Marketing Company and Hitech Trading Corp., the sole authorized distributors of WD40 in the Philippines. This is in accordance with WD40's continuing quest of helping those who help others. WD40 is the world's No. 1 multipurpose lubricant trusted by consumers worldwide for a variety of hardware, automotive and household uses.

LPU Holds Diamond Alumni Homecoming

In celebration of its 60th Foundation Anniversary, the Lyceum of the Philippines University (LPU) opened its doors to its Diamond Alumni Homecoming on March 10. Saturday at the Lyceum Intramuros Campus in Manila. The homecoming event was celebrated with Golden Jubilarian Class of 1962, Silver Jubilarian Class of 1987 and Ruby Jubilarian Class of 2002.

All LPU Alumni members participated in the homecoming event as Golden Jubilarian Arsenio Balisacan was joined together with his Masteral Batch Thirteen mates, Gold Batch Batch of Batch Batch.

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Greenbelt

Gatdula, family get court protection

By Jaymee T. Gamil

IT'S A SMALL victory for former National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Magtanggol Gatdula as he was able to secure one of the "items he wish" in his petition for a writ of amparo: Protection for him self and his family.

On Thursday morning, Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 26 Judge Silvino Pampilo granted Gatdula's application for a temporary protection order, and directed "any government agency, accredited person or private institution of Gatdula's choice [to] provide the necessary security for the protection of [Gatdula] and his immediate family."

Last Feb. 27, Gatdula filed a petition for a writ of amparo to restrain Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, NBI officer in charge Nonnatus Rojas and NBI Deputy Director for Technical Services Reynaldo Esmeralda from "threatening [his] life, liberty and security," and to restrain them from "filing bogus charges of frustrated murder" against him.

Gatdula believes De Lima and the NBI will log him as the mastermind of an ambush attempt on Esmeralda last Feb. 22. He accused De Lima and Esmeralda of "implicitly" holding him responsible after they had aired theories that the ambush could have been related to the Maripo (Buena hit-napping case. Gatdula is one of the accused in the case.

Gatdula's camp further said the ambush attempt on Gatdula could be framed, arrested and even killed in a "salvage."

The petition for the writ of amparo included a request for interim reliefs such as a temporary protection order for Gatdula and his family; an inspection order allowing Gatdula's camp to inspect Esmeralda's unsafe vehicle for evidence; and a production order for the medical and ballistic reports and other documents relating to Esmeralda's ambush.

In his order granting the protection order, Pampilo said Gatdula had presented "substantial evidence" of threats to his life, liberty and security.

In a hearing on the amparo writ petition on Wednesday, Gatdula's camp filed in closed chambers with the judge that he had received police intelligence that he would be held liable for Esmeralda's ambush.

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Syrian deputy oil minister joins rebs

HUSSAMEDDIN

DAMASCUS—Syria's deputy oil minister resigned on Thursday, becoming the latest senior official to join the rebel ranks, as Washington revealed it is sending nonlethal aid to the insurgency.

Abdo Hussameddin announced his resignation in a video posted by activists on YouTube, saying he was joining the revolt.

"I, the engineer Abdo Hussameddin, the deputy oil minister... announce my defection from the regime and my resignation," he said in the video.

"I am joining the revolution of the people who reject injustice and the brutal campaign of the regime, which is seeking to crush the people's demand for freedom and dignity," he added.

The resigning minister said he had served as the Syrian government for 35 years and did not wish to call his life "having a criminal regime." Hussameddin then became the highest-ranking Syrian official to resign from the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad since Riad Hijab fled to Jordan in a plane hijacking revolt.

The news of the ministerial resignation came hours after US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Washington was looking at addressing nonlethal aid to the rebels, hinting at the first direct US assistance to the forces seeking Assad's downfall.

While outraged at the killing of civilians in Syria, the US government is opposed to taking military or intelligence action and favors pursuing diplomacy in Foreign Assad to step down, Panetta told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"We are reviewing all possible additional steps that can be taken with our international partners to support efforts to protect the Syrian people, and the evidence and ensure regional stability, including potential military options if necessary," Panetta stressed.

Asked by Senator Richard Blumenthal if the United States was ready to deliver communications equipment to the rebels, Panetta said: "I'd prefer to discuss that in a closed session but I can tell you that we're considering an array of nonlethal assistance." His answer marked the first time President Barack Obama's administration had publicly acknowledged it was ready to provide direct assistance to Syria's rebels, who are badly outgunned by the regime's tanks and artillery.

According to the United Nations, more than 7,000 people have died in the uprising since anti-government protests first erupted last March.

The Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross had been trying since last month to enter Baba Amr—the target of a month-long bombardment in rural rebel fighters—but the government repeatedly barred them from evacuating wounded civilians and delivering desperately-needed supplies. AFP

China abandons plans make it legal to 'disappear' suspects

BEIJING—China has abandoned controversial plans to make it legal to "disappear" criminal suspects following a huge public outcry in a move hailed as a victory for political reformers.

Proposed changes to China's criminal law being debated this week by parliament originally included a clause that allowed police to hold people suspected of terrorism or endangering national security in secret locations without notifying their families.

Secret detentions in China are already well-documented—the renowned artist Ai Weiwei was missing several days/hours in he taken to an unknown location and held for months without charge during a crackdown on government critics last year.

But rights activists said the clause, which had been removed from a final draft of the amended Criminal Procedure Law unveiled by figures Premier Wen Jiabao on Thursday, effectively legalized such rights violations and could encourage torture.

"The removal of the disappearance clause is a victory for legal reformers in China and a defeat of the security apparatus' attempt to fight their interests in power," said Nicholas Bequelin, a researcher at Human Rights Watch.

"If they hold you in a police station or prison, it's not good. But it's still very different from being kidnapped in the middle of the night, and put in a guesthouse somewhere and kept there for months." There are three ways of locking up suspects in China before trial—formal arrest, detention and residential surveillance at home or in other locations.

Critics say the latter is less formal as it takes place in random locations such as guest houses or hotels, where suspects can be held for months and where police may feel they have more of a free rein to torture them.

In the first two cases, suspects are locked up in formal areas of detention such as police stations or prisons, which people know about.

Under the final draft of the amended law, police have to notify the family that a suspect is being held under residential surveillance in an undisclosed location within 24 hours, to station-value has or law-alleged crime.

The original clause had also stipulated this, but made an exception in cases of terrorism or national security, when notifying the family would "obstruct the investigation."

Chen Guangzhong, the influential chairman of the China Legal Society who has followed the law amendments closely, told AFP the removal of this clause was "big progress."

"I think this is a good sign, it shows our legislative bodies... when integrating China's views... at occasions into their laws—can also listen to other different ideas. That type of progress is one at all easy" he said.

The amended law also stipulates that in cases of detention—legally different to residential surveillance—police do not need to notify the family within 24 hours in terrorism or national security cases.

The proposal triggered an uproar when it was first published in August, and government activist Hu Jia compared it to methods used by the former Soviet Union's KGB secret police. AFP

THEY'D RATHER BE ELSEWHERE
Delegates of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) yawn and doze in the gallery during a session.

Obama camp mocks Romney's long 'death march'

BOSTON, Massachusetts—Mitt Romney's campaign has said he is almost certain to be the US Republican presidential candidate, as his Democratic opponents mock his long "death march" to victory the nomination.

Despite collecting six victories in the 10-state Super Tuesday, Romney's campaign is chasing its crucial Ohio, the Rasmussen failed to knock out chief rival Rick Santorum and the race was set to drag on for weeks or months.

Romney's campaign has sought to keep up the air of inevitability he has maintained on and off for months, saying nothing short of "an act of God" would keep him from being off against Democratic President Barack Obama in November.

But in the meantime, Democrats are savoring the prospect of more bitter Republican infighting and relishing the chance to fill Obama's campaign coffers as Romney drains his in the increasingly costly race by comparison.

Romney must now fend off Santorum and former House speaker Newt Gingrich in a primary in Illinois where the former moderate governor of Illinois Massachusetts has been the weakest—the conservative Deep South—with contests looming in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Missouri.

"All we have to do is keep doing what we're doing, and we can get the nomination," a senior Romney campaign official said Wednesday. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Afghan Air Force accused of drug running

KABUL—US authorities are looking into allegations that some Afghan air force officials have been using aircraft to transport narcotics and illegal weapons across the country, a US official said on Thursday. "At this point allegations are being investigated," said Lt. Col. Tim Chandler, spokesperson for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Training Mission-Afghanistan, which is training up and financing Afghan security forces, including the air force. The Wall Street Journal, which first reported the allegations, said the US military is also looking into whether the alleged transporting of illegal drugs and weapons is connected to an April incident in which an AMF-advised soldier killed US Air Force officers at Kabul Airport. A US Air Force report about the incident quoted American officials as saying that this killer was likely involved in moving illegal cargo. The Wall Street Journal reported. Reuters

Number of US hate groups rising, report says

ATLANTA—Fed by antagonism toward President Barack Obama, resentment toward changing racial demographics and the economic difficulties that have gripped the nation, the number of hate groups and antigovernment organizations in the nation has continued to grow, according to a report released Wednesday by the Southern Poverty Law Center. The center, which has kept track of such groups for 30 years, recorded 1,018 hate groups operating last year. The number of groups whose ideology organized against specific racial, religious, sexual or other characteristics has risen steadily since 2000, when 602 were identified. The center said it investigates groups, for example, that it says in 21 from 11 in 2010. The report also described "stunning" rise in the number of groups it identifies as part of the so-called patriot and militia movements, whose ideologies include deep distrust of the federal government. In 2011, the center tracked 1,274 of those groups, up from 824 the year before. New York Times/News Service

Apple updates iPad with modest changes

SAN FRANCISCO—Apple updated the iPad on Wednesday with a high-definition screen, faster wireless connection and several other refinements. As recent history has shown, though, even those relatively modest changes could be enough for the company to attract waves of new buyers for its tablet computer. The company said the new iPad will go on sale on March 16 from a starting price of $499, unchanged from the last generation of iPads. The president said there is an image that provides a comparable level of detail to the iPhone's "retina display," with higher resolution than conventional high-definition televisions, according to Apple executives. And he urges that buyers intends to more seriously contest its market share in the tablet market, the company said it would continue to sell its second-generation iPad, dropping the price to $399 from $499. New York Times/News Service

Indian journalist arrested in bombing against Israeli

NEW DELHI—An Indian journalist has been arrested as part of an investigation into the bombing last month of a van carrying the wife of an Israeli diplomat, an attack that Israeli officials have blamed on Iran. The suspect, Mohammad Kazmi, appeared in a New Delhi court Wednesday following his arrest earlier in the week. The blast occurred on Feb. 13 in New Delhi, the same day that an explosive was discovered and defused inside the residence of an Israeli diplomat in Georgia. A day later, an explosion was reported, apparently accidentally, at a home in Bangkok used by three Iranians. Israeli officials have said the three episodes are part of a coordinated attempt by Iran to attack Israeli diplomats, a charge denied by Iran. The Press Trust of India, a news agency, reported that Kazmi, 42, worked for an Iranian news agency in New Delhi. New York Times/News Service

Relic of saint stolen from Ireland church

DUBLIN—In what seems like a comical subplot from a Dan Brown novel, a number of irreplaceable religious relics have disappeared from churches across the country, the Irish police and a senior cleric say. The latest in a series of such thefts involved the removal of the preserved fingers of St. Lawrence O'Toole, Dublin's 12th-century patron saint, from the city's historic Christ Church Cathedral. As those searching for the relic left empty to the cathedral, the dean of Christ Church, Sentinel Dunne, initially believed the thief had probably hidden in the building when it closed Friday evening, taken the artifact overnight and simply walked out the next morning. "We're someone else it to order, it certainly seems possible," Dunne said Monday in an interview at Christ Church. "Or maybe a religious fanatic wants the relic and paid somebody to steal it." New York Times/News Service

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The WORLD

Allan Lawrence B. Sueco

Iran may be cleaning up work at nuke site

VIENNA—Satellite images of an Iranian military facility appear to show trucks and earth-moving vehicles at the site, indicating an attempted cleanup of radioactive traces possibly left by tests of a nuclear-weapon trigger, diplomats told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The assertions from the diplomats, all nuclear experts accredited to the International Atomic Energy Agency, could add to the growing international pressure on Iran over its nuclear program, which Tehran insists is for peaceful purposes.

Suffering the US and the EU are backing a sanctions frenzy approach, Israel has warned that it may resort to a preemptive strike against Iran's nuclear facilities to prevent it from obtaining atomic weapons.

Two of the diplomats said the crews at the Parchin military site may be trying to erase evidence of tests of a small experimental explosive device used to set off a nuclear explosion. A third diplomat could not confirm that but said any attempt to trigger a so-called uranium initiator would only be in the context of trying to develop nuclear arms.

The diplomats said they suspect attempts at sanitization because some of the vehicles at the scene appeared to be haulage trucks and other equipment entered to sanitize still potentially contaminated soil from the site.

The images, provided by member countries to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nation's nuclear watchdog, are recent and constantly updated, one of the diplomats said. The diplomats all requested anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the information on the record.

The IAEA has already identified Parchin as the location of suspected nuclear weapons-related testing. In a November report, it said it appeared to be the site of experiments with conventional high explosives meant to initiate a nuclear chain reaction.

It did not mention a uranium initiator as part of those tests, but in a separate section cited an unnamed member nation as saying Iran may have experimented with a uranium initiator, without going into detail or naming a location for such work.

In contrast, the intelligence information shared with the AP by the two diplomats linked the high-explosives work directly to setting off a uranium initiator at Parchin.

In explaining such a device, the agency's November report said that "if placed in the correct of a nuclear core of an implosion-type nuclear device and compressed, [it] could produce a burst of neutrons suitable for initiating a fission chain reaction."

If Iran did try to trigger a uranium initiator, it would harden international suspicions by adding a nuclear component to a suspected string of experiments linked to weapons development that generally have not included radioactive material.

Iran has previously attempted to clean up sites considered suspicious by world powers worried about Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

Iran razed the Lavisan-Shian complex in northern Iran before allowing IAEA inspectors to visit the suspected repository of military personnel equipment that could be used in a nuclear weapons program. Tehran said the site had been demolished to make way for a park, but inspectors who subsequently came to the site five years ago found traces of uranium enriched in or near the level used in making the core of nuclear warheads. AP

Big Dreamers, Big Winners:

Stories from EastWest Bank's lucky clients

Lumber and hardware company proprietor Marcelo Li is a businessman at heart. Both his short- and long-term goals are focused on the expansion of his six-year-old manufacturing enterprise, Woodmark.

An information management graduate from the College of St. Benilde, Marcelo's inclination towards business does not come as a surprise. It seems to run in the family. His three younger siblings have also chosen the entrepreneurial path.

At only 28 years old, this Bulacan native is a hardworking young man who believes in the financial maxim, "Buy only what you need and save the rest."

He started banking with EastWest three years ago and has been very happy with his branch's financial management expertise. And for simply maintaining his account, he won an Acer Iconia tablet in the bank's *Dream Big Win Big* first monthly raffle draw.

Looking at another chance to win, he is eyeing one of the two Mercedes-Benz sedans at stake in the bank promo's grand draw. For now, he is content to share the good news about his bank's services and its unique perks.

Meanwhile, government employee Rizalina Navarro only had to add on to her savings to win one of the Acer Iconia tablets up for grabs in the *Dream Big Win Big* monthly raffle draws. Also a client for three years now, the former public accountant proudly calls EastWest the "best bank" because of the accommodating and hardworking staff and the prompt service.

At 62, Rizalina enjoys listening to Christian music and to a radio show hosted by a Christian pastor. "It feeds my spirit and improves my spiritual health," she said. An avid tablet reader, she describes herself as someone who looks younger than her age because she always smiles. When she is not busy planning church activities, Rizalina also enjoys cooking up a mean Pangpangueño dish.

At her age, Rizalina is no longer "rattled" by financial matters. Her food income is spent on necessities. Her bank's tagline, *Your Dream Our Focus*, resonates with her because she has seen and felt how EastWest has assisted her in her financial needs. She is hoping for another boon from her bank: a chance to win her own brand new condominium unit in the bank's grand draw.

Since October 2011, EastWest Bank has been giving away brand new electronic gadgets to lucky clients through its *Dream Big Win Big* monthly raffle promo. So far, the bank has raffled off Samsung netbooks, Acer Iconia tablets, Blackberry smartphones and Canon 600D DSLRs to more than 300 lucky clients.

The biggest prizes await lucky winners at the grand draw on April 13, 2012: a one-bedroom condominium unit with parking space at the Beaufort, two Mercedes-Benz cars and up to P1.7 million in cash prizes, all tax-free.

For more information about the Dream Big Win Big raffle promo, visit www.EastWestBanker.com or an EastWest Bank branch near you. You may also call (632) 888-1100 or our toll-free hotline 1-800-1888-8000. Per BSP-SEC Permit No. 87 s. 2011 and 2 s. 2011.

Rizalina Navarro is another lucky winner of EastWest bank's monthly promo, pictured here with Congressional Branch Service Head Clare Pineda.

Dream Big Win Big monthly draw winner Marcelo Li (2nd) with Batasang Branch Head Lino Tanghal.

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GOCC subsidies up 156% to ₱53.7B in '11

By Roussel W. Domingo

Top recipient reported to be NHA with ₱16.197B

THE GOVERNMENT gave out P53.7 billion in subsidies to 41 state-owned and -controlled corporations and similar entities in 2011, most of the fund going to those engaged in housing, health and power.

Data from the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) showed that the amount was 156 percent higher than the P21 billion released in 2010.

In December alone, subsidies for state institutions reached P6.5 billion—81 percent more than the P4.7 billion reported in the same period the previous year.

That same month, the government marked a record high in monthly spending of P211.7 billion, according to the Department of Budget and Management.

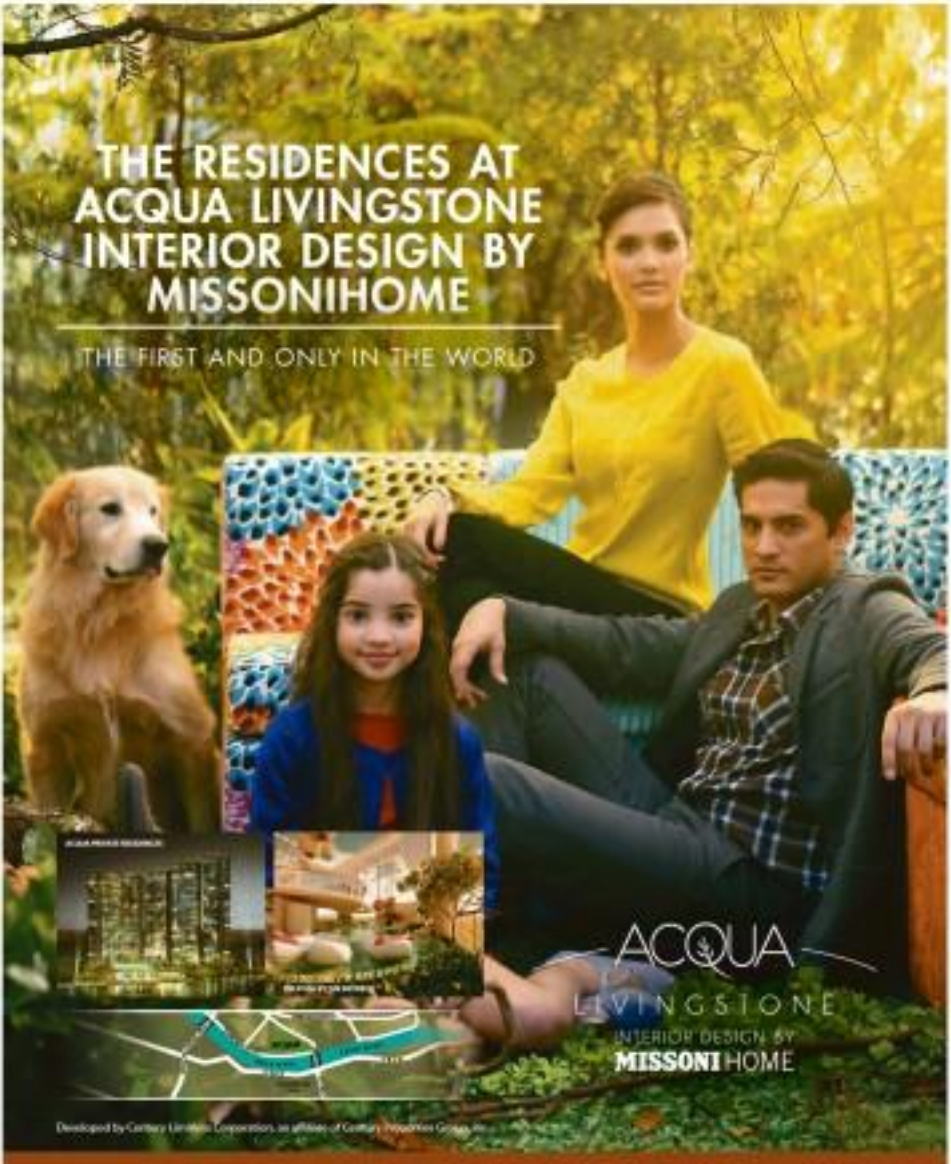
The top recipient of subsidies in 2011 was the National Housing Authority, accounting for 30 percent of the year's total with P16.197 billion.

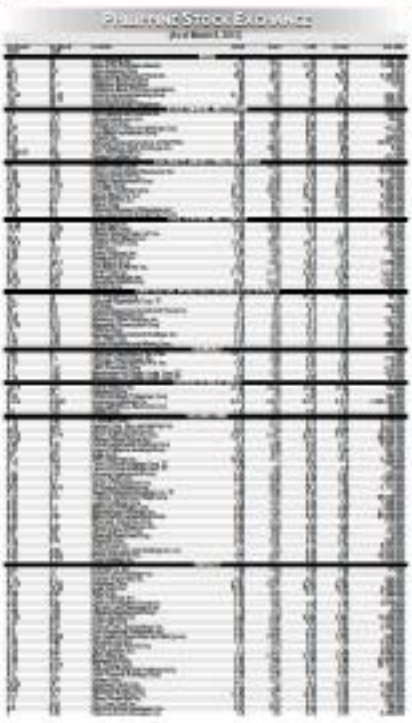
The government has set a goal of serving 190,000 households, out of the estimated 1.36 million that need housing services in 2013, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council said.

In the first semester of 2011, NHA services covered 10,500 households, undertaking programs such as resettlement, slum upgrading, and acquisition and development of raw land. Also, the government militarize that from 2011 to 2016, some 5.73 million households will require services.

For the same period, government agencies hope to provide direct hous...

GOCC, B6





GOCC subsidies

For page B2

ing services to 3.46 million households—just about a fourth of demand).

Among the top five recipients of subsidies in 2011 were the Land Bank of the Philippines with P7.932 billion; Philippine Health Insurance Corp., P6.636 billion; National Power Corp., P6.624 billion; and National Food Authority, P3.535 billion.

In December, the lion's share went to Napocor, getting some P5 billion in subsidies—15 percent of the total for the month.

Other agencies that received the biggest subsidies in December were the NHA with P1 billion; National Electrification Administration, P826 million; Philippine Rice Research Institute for Development Studies, P562 million; and Socialized Home Mortgage Finance Corp., as well as Philippine Forest Development Authority, both with P500 million.

Earlier this week, the Bureau of the Treasury reported that state spending throughout 2011 reached P1.079 trillion...only 91 percent of the planned P1.711 trillion for the full year.

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March 8, 2012

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STOCK MARKET

March 8, 2012

34.83

Share prices rebound

THE LOCAL stock index yesterday snapped out of a two-day slump as investors turned optimistic over reports that private bondholders in Greece would approve a crucial debt deal.

An investor's woes also encouraged by an upbeat US private jobs report, which cheered up Wall Street overnight, the main share Philippine Stock Exchange index recouped 34.83 points, or 0.71 percent, to finish at 4,890.19.

This came about as investors continued to exercise caution on trading shares.

SHARE, B3

need a job?

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Atlas unit to raise $300M from offshore bonds

CCC to expand Cebu mine output

By Doris C. Dumlao

ATLAS Consolidated Mining and Development Corp.'s wholly owned Carmen Copper Corp. (CCC) plans to raise up to $300 million from the sale of offshore bonds, increasing the first Philippine mining firm to issue the overseas debt market.

It was earlier disclosed that CCC's dollar denominated bond offering would have a tenor of five years and five days and that BDO Capital & Investment Corp. and Credit Suisse Securities (Europe) Ltd. would act as joint lead managers and bookrunners.

One sources price at the bond-raising confirmed the offering size. It comes from the SM group and the offering size would be "up to $300 million or less."

Another source prior to the exercise price's similar figure, adding that the company would try "to get it done within the week or early next week."

CCC's copper-gold unit is a partnership between the group of Alfredo Yao and tycoon Henry Sy's holding firm SM Investments Corp.

However, the debt issues will be unsecured and will not be guaranteed by Atlas.

CCC operates the Toledo copper mine in the province of Cebu.

Based on bond reports, the company is on track with the open-pit development of the higher-grade Carmen ore body and is now planning capacity expansion.

The initial target is to raise its current throughput capacity of 40,000 tons per day to 60,000 tons per day.

Based on an earlier disclosure, net proceeds from the offering are intended to refinance some of CCC's debt as well as fund its capital and project expenditures, to enable parent Atlas to refinance its portion of the existing debt backed by CCC and to fund other general corporate purposes.

The proposed issue is based on an "unrated Regulation S" offering, which means that they are not registered in the United States and therefore could only be sold to non-institutional investors outside the US.

The Philippine mining firm has recently embarked on roadshows in Asia and Europe.

It was earlier reported that CCC had posted a net income of P5.54 billion in 2011, up from only P978 million in 2010. Core income was likewise up by 59.5 percent to P2.243 billion.

CCC sold its copper output in 2011 at an average realized price of $9,879 per ton, or $4.81 per pound, higher than the average of $7,034 per ton, or $3.19 per pound, reported the previous year.

Share prices rebound

Portugal M

of index heavyweight PLDT, which earlier reported a sharper-than-expected decline in 2011 income.

All counter moved up or kept for services, which was weighted down by PLDT.

PLDT's share price dipped by 0.2 percent to P2,752 a share.

On the other hand, strong three-day bull run underlined to the rebound of the Philippine Stock Exchange index were AB SBMC, Meralco, ACL, SMC, DMC, Metalm, Megaworld, SFE Bankers, ICTSI and BPI.

Other stocks that gained on heavy volume, although not part of PSEi, were Bloom, Lodestar, Security Bank, Nibbe and Philweb.

Meanwhile, DM C and Petron were among the other stocks that backed the day's upswing.

In developed markets, sentiment improved on rising optimism of reaching the first private sector bailout (PSI) deal, said investment bank Credit Agricole CIB.

Risk assets (will) to benefit from the improved sentiment, but investors may still choose to be cautious ahead of a slew of events in developed markets," Credit Agricole said.

On Wall Street, US stocks likewise returned to positive territory as some fled to the United States' private sector added more jobs than expected last month.

The information was based on a report by payroll processor ADP that private employers quickened the pace of hiring in February.

US stocks were also perked up by a report that the United States Federal Reserve may be considering a new type of mortgage and bond-buying program.

The Dow Jones industrial average added 78.18 points, or 0.61 percent, to finish at 12,807.50 on Wednesday.

Doris C. Dumlao

Power Situation Outlook
for Friday, 9 March 2012

	Units	Reserve	Minimum
System-wide (MW)	8,583	1,710	1,174
Luzon Grid (MW)	6,362	1,118	1,244
Visayas (MW)	1,125	300	-70

FREE DEMO!

PRULINK	PRU LIFE UK
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Mar. 7, 2012	Feb. 29, 2012
Bond Fund - Peso	2.28705	2.28605
Managed Fund - Peso	2.55510	2.54764
Growth Fund - Peso	0.78843	0.77990
Equity Fund - Peso	1.93443	1.89860
Bond Fund - US Dollar	2.08020	2.07702
Secured Return Fund I	1.09119	1.09410
Secured Return Fund II	1.04798	1.04866
Protection Fund - Peso	1.01573	1.00403
Money Market Fund - Peso	1.04109	1.04043
Asian Local Bond Fund - US Dollar	0.98000	1.00100

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Partnership ensures leading global financial services customer

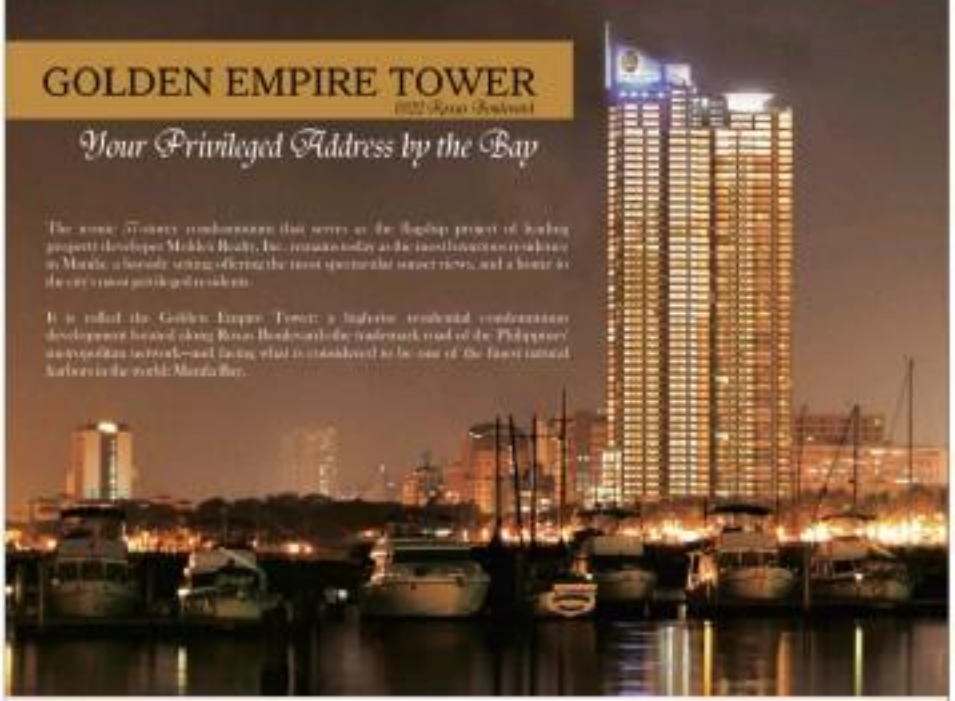
GOLDEN EMPIRE TOWER

1022 Roxas Boulevard

Your Privileged Address by the Bay

The iconic 37-storey condominium that serves as the flagship project of leading property developer Meldén Realty, Inc. remains today as the most distinctive residence in Manila, a lovely setting offering the most spectacular sunset views, and a home to the city's most privileged residents.

It is called the Golden Empire Tower: a high-rise residential condominium development located along Roxas Boulevard, the trademark road of the Philippines' metropolitan network—and facing what is considered to be one of the finest natural harbors in the world: Manila Bay.



The tallest residential tower in Manila, and overall the twelfth tallest building in the Philippines, the Golden Empire Tower is set in the middle of the country's contemporary, cultural, and historical hub—and has become an important landmark in itself, a beacon of light gleaming day and night in shades of rose gold and seamster blue.

Developed in partnership with a team of world-renowned designers, consultants, and contractors, the Golden Empire Tower also serves as a demonstration of Meldén Realty, Inc.'s global capabilities and, as such, boasts all the hallmark qualities for which the company is known: first-class comfort, uncompromising safety, and distinguished elegance.

Between second and third floors, a set of world-class features, the Golden Empire Tower offers a premier range of three-bedroom and four-bedroom suites, each of which includes a floor area of 167 to 300 sq.m., as well as a set of hand-crafted features and amenities fit for privileged Manila living. All residential units also incorporate elements of timeless contemporary architecture and functionalist design, with operable windows to capture the sea breeze, floor to ceiling window openings to maximize natural light and ventilation, and sunshades to minimize glare and heat. The two-pool design of the building, meanwhile, ensures that each suite affords stunning seat-level views of Manila Bay's world-famous sunset—and of everything in between the second sky.

As Manila's ultimate luxury high-rise condominium, the Golden Empire Tower stands—from top to bottom—as a monumental architectural achievement. Its foundation is 66 meters deep—equivalent to 19 stories—and utilizes cutting-edge French foundation engineering technology for maximum safety. There are three entrance points: Roxas Boulevard, Padre Faura, and L. Guinward and two-way driveways to promote accessibility and secure exclusivity; these lead to either the building's basement and podium parking levels or the high-ceilinged reception lobby, which provides concierge services for welcoming residents to their home by the bay. Of course, the Golden Empire Tower is no ordinary home. The entire building is covered by a magnificent curtain wall façade designed with aluminum framed glass, heightening its sense of elegance and style. Inside, meanwhile, is a world-class set of leisure and recreational facilities tailored to meet the most sophisticated demands of an upper class community. This includes: a 25-meter, underwater-lit swimming pool; an outdoor Jacuzzi and a exercise-set pool; an inner deck bar for poolside lounging and partying; a main function area with an outdoor terrace and its own bar and pantry area; a 45-sq.m. card room; a fully air-conditioned children's playroom; a spa with adjoining sleek saunas, male and female locker rooms with linear steam and massage areas; a physical fitness gym with full-length mirrors and cold-tiled floor tiles; and putting greens in the Golden Empire Tower's luxe landscaped gardens.

The 37-storey property also features state-of-the-art security and maintenance. All areas are served by a 24/7 electronic surveillance system, stationary and roving security details, integrated fire and smoke detection, private residential hallways with panic devices, a video intercom and paging system, and a centralized building monitoring system. In cases of emergency, the Golden Empire Tower is also equipped with two sets of power generators, a 300-meter deep well as a standby water source, a quick-response sprinkler system, and all the essential firefighting equipment. At the top of the tower is a 17-sq.m. helipad with full safety perimeter rails which operates 24/7.

The iconic residence and privileged address

As the most iconic residential developments on the shores of Manila Bay, the Golden Empire Tower plays an important role in invigorating a city known for its wide range of hotels, shopping and entertainment areas, fine dining options, museums, service establishments, and universities. Robinsons Place Manila is approximately a five-minute walk away, while the SM Mall of Asia in Bay City, the central business district of Makati, and the Binondo Chinatown are all less than half an hour's drive away. The entertainment is also located right across the U.S. Embassy, and stands close to Rizal Park, Manila Ocean Park, the historic walled cluster of Intramuros, the Manila Yacht Club, the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

It is only fitting that, for such a luxurious address in such a prestigious location, the Golden Empire Tower is sculpted to

a true that symbolizes life's ever-rising perfections. Its entire, designed like the prow of a golden ship, faces the sea and points to the sky—an apt symbol for a tower that serves, all at once, as the flagship, the sails and powerful anchor-pin, and the whitest bay-side homes of Manila's richest and privileged few.

To schedule a private property preview of the Golden Empire Tower, please contact (02) 788.1818 or (0917) 150.5151. This property is ready for occupancy.

Resplendent in the glory of the world-famous sunset of Manila Bay, the **Golden Empire Tower** is truly an iconic address.

Welcome to the most luxurious residence, offering such a spectacular view of the world-famous sunset over Manila Bay.

GOLDEN EMPIRE TOWER

ROXAS BOULEVARD

Your privileged address by the bay

For more info on the property,
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BUSINESS

Dubious corruption claim

ONCE the host of friends and business partners in the gambling casino business, American billionaire Steve Wynn and Japanese tycoon Kazuo Okada are now the stuff of enemies.

Wynn has accused Okada of engaging in illegal activities to obtain a gambling license in the casino resort being built by Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. at the Manila Bay area.

According to Wynn, Okada spent more than $130,000 - by way of luxury lodgings, extravagant dinners and shopping treats - to curry the favor of two Pagcor officials despite Wynn's advertisement to do so.

These freebies supposedly violate the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and ethical standards of the Macau casino company where both of them once submitted shares of stocks.

In his complaint, Wynn described the Philippines as a "corrupt casino" and pockmarked the efforts of President Aquino to rid the country of graft and corruption.

Reacting to this scathing statement, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry denounced the "irresponsible and unwarranted dragging of the Philippine government in the private corporate squabble" between the two businessmen.

Prohibition

In military parlance, the Philippines has become collateral damage (or accidental or unintended casualty) in the clash between two warring gamblers.

Both millions to dollars in gambling revenues at stake, which Wynn and then-PAGCOR head Efraim Genuino (now Pagcor chairman) are who got hurt in his efforts to put Okada down. Like a wounded, scarred, but lush ex-squid in Wynn's fury against his erstwhile high roller partner, Wynn's use of the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) to go after Okada is the small market equivalent of American businessmen who lose out to their foreign counterpart in big-ticket projects in foreign countries.

By way of background, the FCPA prohibits certain classes of persons and companies doing business in the US from making cash and even such payments to foreign government officials to "secure any improper advantage in order to assist in obtaining or retaining business for or with, or directing business to any person."

Enacted in 1977 during the administration of US President Jimmy Carter when several iconic American companies were found to have bribed foreign government officials to log licenses contracts in their countries, the law is aimed at restoring the integrity of the American business system.

Statements

It is not uncommon for American companies that are censured by Chinese, Korean or Japanese firms in contracts mentioned off by foreign governments to claim that money exchanged hands in consideration for the award.

Some American businessmen have not yet outgrown their 19th century belief that US technology and skills are superior to any one else. So if foreign government choose to do business with non-American companies, in their mind it's because bribes were given to tilt the odds in the winner's favor.

The times cannot accept the fact that the world has changed many times over. No longer are companies from Asia and other developing countries mediocre in terms of technical, financial and managerial expertise.

There are already go toe-to-toe with the best. that American companies can offer is a fair competition and emerge victorious with plenty of spins to spare.

To draw compliance with the FCPA, American businessmen often make bribes claim their pronouncements about their manner of doing business or, at least on paper, make strong statements against engaging in unethical business practices.

But there is an ocean of a difference between what is said in public and what actually takes place in the highly competitive field of international business.

Heroics

No holes in the woods in the stolen way of doing business, American businessmen who want to win contracts in the Philippines know the weak spots (or Achilles' heel of government officials or Filipino executives whose endorsement make a key difference in contract awards).

When in the US, suborbar or there squeeze or upon the invitation of American companies, some Filipino officials or businessmen find happiness watching NBA basketball games (if it's the season), seeing Broadway shows, dining at Michelin-accredited restaurants (think La Grenouille, or sightseeing.

Forgiveness of any or all of these activities translates to bragging rights upon their return, complete with the obligatory photos to memorialize the occasion.

All they have to do is drop subtle hints about wanting to go to any of those places and (voila!) the necessary tickets or reservations will be booked and the visit made enjoyable. Or more specifically something to be remembered when the bid documents are evaluated prior to the award of the covered contract.

Although no cash actually changed hands, strictly speaking, such hospitable indulgence falls squarely within the coverage of the FCPA because they could induce their recipient to expression their kindness in favor business friendly decisions.

Understandably, nothing would appear in the books of the American companies concerned about these generosities that may alert the authorities into looking deeper for possible violation of the FCPA.

The convenience and to introduce cases will be handled by the companies' law offices, investment bankers or public relations agencies.

The reimbursement of expenses will be taken care of in the "fulfillment services rendered" that will be later submitted to the client. Prearranged buzz words will subtly describe the purpose of entertainment activities. Very neat.

Just because a US law prohibits bribery does not mean that all American companies comply with it. The arc of bribery has no territorial boundaries.

(For feedback, please write to: <rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph>.)

BSP shrugs off China slowdown

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE PHILIPPINES is expected to still be its growth target this year despite the slowdown in the economic growth of China, one of the country's biggest trading partners.

According to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., even if economic growth in China slows to 7.5 percent this year from 8.2 percent in 2013, the pace of expansion is still significant enough to shore up earnings of exporting countries like the Philippines.

"A 7.5-percent growth is still respectable. We don't see any significant impact of the slowdown on the Philippines," Tetangco said yesterday.

The Philippine economy - as measured by Gross Domestic Product - is expected to grow by 5 to 6 percent this year, faster than last year's 7.2 percent.

The National Economic and Development Authority, meanwhile, said the slowdown in China will actually benefit the Philippines.

According to Socio-Economic Director General Ricardo Molano, China is bracing for a slowdown mainly because of the shift in its growth strategy from one based on investments and exports to one driven by consumption.

"China wants its growth to be more consumption-led. China may slow down, but because of its investment and export strategies, and therefore imports, there will be an opportunity for us [Philippines] to sell more goods to it. On a net basis, China's slowdown will, therefore, be positive for us," Molano said in a press briefing.

China is one of the Philippines' biggest export markets.

Toyota set to hike output

By Amy R. Remo

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. is looking to hike its annual vehicle sales to 100,000 units and local production to 30,000 yearly by 2018.

TMP president Michitoshi Sugata said during the celebration reminder of the Laguna manufacturing facility's 500,000-unit production milestone that the company remains true to its commitment to "feel the age of motorization" to the Philippines.

"Indeed, we are a relatively small player in the Asia Pacific region today in terms of volume, but we can compete head-to-head with any Toyota manufacturer in the region, or the world for that matter, in production quality," Sugata said.

Last year, TMP's Laguna facility sold 56,581 units, making it the leader in the automotive industry.

TMP produces the industry leading Vios and Innova models.

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Peza investment pledges as of Feb. surge by 47%

PH urged to maintain BPO dominance

By Paolo G. Montecillo

OVER a hundred countries are now seeking to challenge the Philippines' dominance in the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, especially in more high-value non-voice services, industry stakeholders warned.

Many of the players that wrested away market share away from the Philippines in the country's own backyard, the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP) said, noting recent gains made by the likes of Malaysia, Singapore and China.

"There are over 100 countries around the world (where IT (information technology)-BPO services are being offered," BPAP head of research and industry relations Sigi Mata said in a recent press conference.

"While we have our feet in some areas, we have to be more competitive in higher value services," she added.

The Philippines now ranks as the top call center service provider in the world, surpassing erstwhile leader India in terms of revenues and headcount.

Industry officials, however, have emphasized the need for BPO firms to diversify into more complex sectors if the sector is to sustain its rapid growth.

These include back-office functions such as accounting tasks and the management of human resource systems that many corporations, in a bid to cut costs, have started to subcontract to companies in countries like the Philippines.

Proficiency in the English, which has been the Philippines' main advantage over competitors, is not a key factor in success in non-voice services.

"It's a very competitive (work) out there," Mata said. "We encourage companies to be more efficient. They have to be more productive and they must just keep cutting costs by reducing salaries."

"What you have to do is improve systems to identify redundancies, and come up with innovative ideas for better customer service," she said.

The emphasis on improving quality, she said, has become a key priority for stakeholders to a point that in the upcoming annual ICT Information and Communications Technology Awards, a new category, "Quality Program of the Year," was recently added.

She said eliminating redundancies would reduce the need to keep salaries low, allowing companies to retain the best talent while keeping cost competitive.

These said companies should also do to be certified by international organizations that recognize corporate best practices. These include the International Organization for Standardization or the ISO.

"There are the sort of things that clients from places like the European Union demand from suppliers more than our traditional American clients might," she said. "If we want to break into new markets, we need to do this," she said.

There are 400 BPO companies employing over 630,000 people in the country today. Last year, the industry contributed over $11 billion in revenues to the domestic economy, up by over 20 percent year-on-year.

The center for BPO industry the country's second largest source of foreign exchange next to remittances from migrant workers.

Improving business climate cited

By Amy R. Remo

INVESTMENT pledges registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) surged by 47 percent to P46.22 billion in the first two months of the year, from P31.04 billion in the same period last year, owing to the country's improved business investment climate.

This growth in investment commitments is expected to be sustained until the end of 2012, due to the large number of prospects in the pipeline, particularly projects of Japanese firms that are coming to the Philippines to either relocate or expand their operations, according to Peza director general Lilia de Lima.

"This is our bumper year ... Our forte here is still Japan (for investments). I'm very happy with our Japanese investors, they treat our people well, so we want to invite more Japanese investors into the country," De Lima said on the sidelines of Toyota Motor Philippines Corp.'s 500,000 unit production milestone yesterday.

Last year, investments registered with Peza rose by 41 percent to P289 billion, from the previous year's pledges of P204 billion.

Peza, however, is keeping its "12-12-12" target for now, meaning 12 percent growth in investments, employment and exports.

Growth targets may be changed later this year, she added.

Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo earlier said that more than half of the investors expected to come in this year are Japanese firms keen on pursuing in "upstream investments" in manufacturing facilities.

While Domingo did not disclose investment figures, he noted that Japanese investors were looking for sites with land areas ranging between 25 hectares and 100 hectares.

The rise, he said, suggests "sizeable manufacturing facilities."

These investors, he said, were now various sectors including electronics and electrical.

Domingo said the Philippines is getting noticed by potential investors because it is having lower churn its neighbors.

In Asia, Domingo explained, a good number of investors are running away from the coastal areas in China where wages are relatively higher compared to, for example, the Philippines.

This upward in wages is expected to continue, he added, giving the Philippines a competitive edge.

Marketing Buzz

BUSINESS Friday

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Want a brighter career in communications?

By Roger Pe
Contributor

IT IS A communicator's market. The opportunities are aplenty for the lot.

Whether you want to be a TV news anchor, talk show host, public relations officer, publications editor, marketing communications director, copywriter, film director, journalist, scriptwriter, reporter or an entertainment, you name it. The future is bright.

Brighter if you get what it takes to have that bargaining in the world speaks, extraordinary knack for original creation, inventions, discovery, an amazing personality and ability to express words convincingly, written or verbally.

Brighter if your passion accord digit, a dose of luck is on your side, and it is written—you're destined to make it.

Last month, around 300 from dead broadcast communications students from the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communications listened to communication specialists, all successful in their chosen fields, talk about pursuing a career in communications.

The career talk symposium titled "Track and Field" was launched by the UP Broadcasting Association (BroadAsia) to celebrate its 43rd year of "Passion, Glory and Excellence."

The college has produced some of the country's best and most illustrious names in the field of media and advertising.

Through the college's Broadcast Department and Studies Department, the organization felt it was important to conduct an event that would inform students of the infinite opportunities available for them outside the academe.

"The seminar an event that will provide a venue to inspire our fellow students and help them decide the academic track that best suits their potentials and interests," says Irene Pena, marketing officer of Swastika and Angels Cotton, project head.

Freshmen, sophomores, juniors and graduating students attended the event.

BEGIN with UP College of Mass Communications students.

Award-winning journalist and Rappler CEO Maria Ressa, well-known film director Mario Dela Rosa and film author Ed Lejano discussed the unspoiled media realm of UPCMC.

Ressa, former Jakarta bureau chief of CNN, and head of ABS-CBN's news and current affairs unit, spoke about "The Courage To Do What is Right."

In a world where doing the wrong thing seems to be the easy way to get ahead, Ressa tells students: "You have to find the courage to say No."

"Corrupt people don't think they're corrupt. Bad people don't think they're evil," she says.

She quotes some powerful lines from Malcolm Gladwell's The Tipping Point, how little things make a difference like throwing a line in the sand and not crossing it.

Ressa's insightful lectures resonates across the audiences: "The more you say no, the easier it becomes. The more you do the right thing, the harder it is to do the wrong thing."

Lejano takes the stage at journalists who accept bribes and whose excuses are very familiar: "Everyone is doing it." "If he is capable it didn't take it." "The budget is there anyway." "I don't have to do what they mandate."

De las Reyes, who directed many gems of Philippine cinema like "Inocencio Rawengkuwal," "High School Girls 65," "Bagets," "Cubao" and the internationally acclaimed "Magsilyo," advises students to go and chase after their dreams.

"Dreams are never impossible to reach. Just do what you need to do: focus and you'll be closer to reaching them," he says.

The veteran director whose film "Magsilyo" won numerous awards could have done well in previous Diane Sawyer Barbara Walters competition says "never lose sound the bush, know what you want and go for it."

"Magsilyo" tears many local grand slam awards, including Best Picture in the 1982 Manila Film Festival. Last year, the movie was chosen by noted movie critics as one of the Philippines' 50 Best Films of the Decade.

In the international scene, "Magsilyo" and the las Reyes brought honors to the Philippines. The film and its director won top prizes in Berlin, Hawaii and the Karlovy Vary (Czech Republic) international festivals.

For those who are learning toward a career in advertising, it requires a lot of hard-work, patience, flair, structured environment, long hours and talent.

"If you don't quit, it is satisfying, flattering and you may even get rewarded like rock stars in a broad," he adds.

The second team treated to a couple of entertaining TV commercials and print campaigns done by the author loosely as well as dealing his mine as regards to Indonesia, Malaysia, Switzerland Cambodia.

Today's generation of Filipino media stars and advertising practitioners also got a glimpse of the advertising process and how it operates.

After the three spoke, a question-and-answer forum followed. A student stood up and asked: "Why do Filipinos have to go abroad to work and what can we learn from foreign customer-service?"

"Filipino talents are in demand abroad. We learn from our experiences, they learn from us. As the whole world gets smaller and smaller because of media communications (that's gone totally digital), we need an amalgam of cultures to breed-mark excellent without losing our uniqueness."

A former broadcaster, who now shares his one knowledge gained from years of experience, makes an interesting insight.

"By the end of it all, we all learn that it is not important what degree we have."

Though most employers would be happy to ask for an English major for publications and broadcast media, it is the content than manner more," he says.

Many successful Filipinos in communications did learn-ships without pay or be a paltry amount. They stuck around until they got noticed and eventually rose to where they are now.

Are you a student who is seriously considering a career in communications? Take the following advice from Ressa.

"Be excellent at what you do. Be self aware. Take responsibility for what you say and what you do. Find your allies. You'll need help."

"Track and Field" on TAF was organized by the UP Broadcasting Association (one of the student organizations in CMC).

Keeping employees in sync with company goals

By Lila Berlanga-Rivera
Contributor

THE CEO should have just sent us all an e-mail."

"The speakers should have anticipated our questions."

These are the most common reactions of employees in less-than-satisfying town hall meetings presided by their organizations' CEOs and senior executives.

In many of these meetings, employees are usually more afraid than interested.

Town hall meetings are tools for nurturing the workforce, build employee trust, reduce confusion resulting from the rumor mill and help make sure apparent information easier to understand.

A 2003 international study on communications in business by Towdbrej, a global telecommunications company, and Roper-ASW, a marketing research firm, found that 51 percent of people pay full attention in face-to-face meetings, while only 23 percent pay full attention when listening to audio meetings.

Town halls, says Laurie Hitchcock, a consultant PR training in the American Greetings Corp. in Cleveland, Ohio, allow the company leadership to have a variety of perspectives, connect at a grassroots level and learn more about the nitty-gritty issues occurring at the department level.

John Freeman, president of the International Association of Business Communicators, on the other hand, says that being able to see the person who is talking helps build acceptance and credibility for the speaker's message.

Hal Hicks, principal of Hicks Communication in California, says these meetings allow employees to ask questions and try to influence an organization's decisions.

Dialogue

When the CEO and senior executives start talking about the goals for the coming year and how corporate needs to get on board, nobody will likely have the energy or the enthusiasm to raise a question.

John Hutchinson, assistant professor of communications at Elon University in North Carolina, says that's because people feel intimidated and don't want to appear as if they aren't team members. "If a senior leader walks out of a town hall meeting saying that the employees 'love us', something went wrong. If no one said anything negative, if nobody had a chance to vent it, then it was a failure. The speakers need to know feeling better informed is not when they mean it," he says.

To encourage dialogue with employees, Hutchinson says it is best to have employees send in questions ahead of time. "A number of employees believe their company screens the questions and check the handwriting to see who wrote them. Allow employees to submit queries anonymously and let them know that questions will not be edited, except for length," was Hutchinson's advice.

Hicks adds it's good for the CEO to be long on charisma. It's more important for the person to be sincere. Employees can discern honesty."

He also suggests allowing written questions on the floor, since some employees may not be comfortable standing up in front of a large crowd to voice their opinions.

How not to do it

In an article titled "How not to conduct a town hall meeting" by Dr. Frank Winston Petrobelog, Veronica Apostrophe, director of internal communication of Smith & Stephens, a medical devices organization, gives some helpful tips for CEOs and senior executives what to avoid and what corporate communicators should do after the meeting.

1. They should not read from a script.

2. They should not digress and give a convoluted message.

3. They should not put too much information on their slide presentations.

4. They should not talk at employees.

"A town hall meeting is a discussion. It's meant to be engaging. The leaders should be paying attention to the reactions and never doing something they shouldn't spew out what they have to say," she says.

5. They shouldn't bully the employees to get questions.

"Sometimes leaders have known to say 'don't you have a question?' You must have a question!'" says spokesperson.

6. They shouldn't make up answers.

She advises corporate leaders should never lie or try to "B.S." one an answer." If they don't know the answer, they should say so but they'll find out and get back to the one asking.

7. They should not try to limit much information into one meeting.

Many help means sessions, need are a short-money immediately after the meeting if possible. Keep it simple with a couple of questions to ensure the message has been received/understood."Apostolic says.

8. They should send employees further communication from after the meeting which may read: "For those of you who were able to attend, thank you for coming. If you weren't there, there are my key messages...this is what we talked about...please send me follow-ups to the questions I couldn't answer at the time..." Apostolic says what was said at the session/hall meeting should be acknowledged and confirmed so people are not trying to interpret it for themselves.

'Do better marketing with a marketing plan'

Q: We read your column last month about "Can you do good marketing without a marketing plan?" Our situation is opposite that of the company who wrote about doing so well without a marketing plan.

We're a medium-size consumer goods company. In addition to yearly corporate business plan, we also have a written marketing plan for our two major brands since ten years ago when I took over as marketing director.

But over the same period, we've had falling sales including profit. The declines were small and slow but in 2008 the decrease was two-digits and 2009 was the worst. It stopped in 2010 and we experienced a very slight rise last year. All throughout we had a good marketing plan to direct our efforts.

We have two questions. The first: "Where should we look to find out what's working against our marketing and marketing planning?" And, "Do you think we still make sense with the plan if we do not have previous reader did their marketing, that is, just prepare and follow a calendar of marketing and sales activities for the year based on the company's business plan?"

A: Adequately answering your questions requires we looking into the details of your marketing and sales operations as well as your past in your profitability performance. Since you have chosen to "promote" questions, we'll answer within the same domain of discussion.

One thing we can readily agree on is the reality that there are many factors working against you. That's aside from the usual external forces in the economy that has become the businessmen's and business student's favorite whipping boy.

When you're searching for those factors working against you, it makes for better understanding if you diagnose for "causes" that are within your control.

External forces are, by definition, outside your control. So even if you find out that one or two of such factors are among the culprits, since they're outside your control, you can't do anything about them.

This is not to say that they're useless. They are useful if only to set your benchmarks in terms of what's happening in the industry and how your brands are performing relative to the rest of the industry.

so let you know the boundaries within which to solve your marketing problems.

But consider as well the flip side of your question: "What's working for you?"

For the past many years, you've been a dedicated practitioner of the planning discipline. Your considerable experience has been that your Marketing and Sales would, if not now then eventually, be favorably rewarded in a result. However, over the past two years, you've had "falling sales including profit" although those "declines were small and slow."

In 2008, you had a two digit decline and 2009 was the worst. But the fall stopped in 2010 and you experienced a slight rise last year. So ask yourself: "How do you know that all those do not count as something actually working for you?"

If you did not have a marketing plan to guide your Marketing and Sales through those years and to those difficult times of 2008 to 2009, would the sales and profit declines have been much more, much worse?

The surprising sales performance of 2010 and especially 2011 appear to be the first sign that at last your persistence in navigating your Marketing and Sales by a marketing plan is starting to pay off.

This brings us to your second question which is why not do marketing via an annual calendar of marketing and sales activities.

In our "Accountable Marketing" seminar, we avoid labeling the calendar of marketing and sales activities as not at all a marketing plan. We say it's less than half a plan, about a third of a marketing plan. There's two-thirds missing parts that really businesses have overlooked and sometimes they were not even conscious of the neglectful oversight.

We will not use this occasion to do a Defensive Analogy like explaining because that will take us nowhere. Instead, we will answer what can MBAs and deans often ask: "How do we transform the calendar of marketing efforts into a full marketing plan and give it the missing two-thirds?"

The in-house version of our Accountable Marketing seminar, participants learn to do this via two workshops. The first workshop asks participants working in small learning groups to openly how much revenue or sales productivity each of their accumulated marketing activities will contribute to provide.

At least, they can resort to a historical analysis of such revenue productivities from their accounting records. The second workshop then challenges each learning group to identify the two or three marketing and sales activities that can be handled to work together for synergy to increase and profit productivity.

Again, a historical analysis of your accounting records should prove helpful here. We realize how demanding to time and brain energy each of these two integration efforts can become.

But if you're sincere in doing truly accountable marketing that is empowered to yield synergistic and profitable results, then you have to set up for these requirements and exercises.

The long-term benefit is huge. You will elevate what you're doing from good marketing to better marketing; from sub-optimal to optimal marketing.

Last Feb. 25, the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) invited the Senior MBAs to be one of the judges of the 13 finalists from the 2012 Sampo Internet Award for the best Marketing Plan. The Senior MBAs were seated beside another judge, Jun Urmali, President of Gardenia Bakeries Inc. After the 12 presentations, the Senior MBAs asked Jun: "Why is it that not one of the presentations talked about revenue productivity and about consideration for synergy?" Jun was quick to answer: "Students of marketing planning have yet to learn how to be quantitatively accountable about their marketing plans."

The Senior MBAs were also quick to reply: "PMA ought to do something about the marketing planning teachers of those students."

Any your questions regarding? Feel free to us at Marketingrx@gmail.net or at mark-marketingrx@gmail.com. God bless!

Gov't urged to consider Islamic finance

UK envoy cites $1T in global funds

By Bonnel W. Domingo

FINANCIAL institutions based in the United Kingdom, yesterday called on the Philippine government to amend laws and rules that would allow Islamic finance, explaining that the country stands to gain from over $1 trillion in global funds on line.

According to British Ambassador to the Philippines Stephen Lillie, the opportunity is very much relevant to the Philippines and that there "is potentially a big opportunity."

Lillie spoke at a forum yesterday organized in cooperation with HSBC group and its local unit Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC).

He said the country should adopt the Islamic system of finance because of the Philippines' growing trade and investments, as well as people in particular, in the Muslim land.

"So the country needs to capitalize on, and expand, these links. Islamic financial instruments may have a valuable role to play," Lillie added. He proceeded to extract much needed foreign investments from a wide range of sources. Islamic financial instruments[] would be crucial."

The ambassador said the United Kingdom, considered the most successful non-Islamic country to engage in Islamic banking, provides a good example.

He said that the UK—home of the common law system instead of Shariah law—was the gateway Islamic finance—has successfully developed IF institutions and products within the framework of legislations and regulations.

Rajeev Arora, HSBC, Pacific UK and Standard Chartered also presented reports on why Islamic finance would make sense for the Philippines.

Although the global market for Islamic finance remains at its early stage of development, even for countries where the population is predominantly Muslim, it still presents strong opportunities, through product innovations, the experts said.

During the decade ending in 2010, the issuance of "Sukuk," or Shariah-compliant debt and equity papers, grew 50 times amid these global growth in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis.

The broadening geographical customer base and continued massive developments in the banking sector is expected to boost the potential of Islamic finance to sustain a growth rate of up to 25 percent a year.

"One driver of Islamic finance is Muslim population," Lillie said, explaining that Muslim supervisors consider for bonds that need to be served.

PH trade seen growing by 6.4% yearly

By Doris C. Dumlao

METRO banking giant HSBC sees the Philippines' relational trade growing faster than the global trade expansion in the next five years, supported by rising intra-regional trade, entry into new markets and migration to the bottome of higher value-added products.

In a briefing on Wednesday, HSBC senior vice president and head of global banking Amit Mitra said Philippine trade would likely grow by an average of 6.4 percent over the next five years, faster than the projected growth of 5.9 percent in global trade.

"Mitra said exports and imports performance would depend on the pace of oil in considering that the Philippines is a net importer, but these economic indicators would likely look like positive and steadily growth overall.

Citing the Economist of HSBC Global Connections, Mitra said that as supply chains shifted toward supporting consumers and integrated circuits and export away from semiconductors and electronics, total trade would likely grow by an average of 18.2[illegible] percent by 2014 and 10.3[illegible] percent by 2015.

"The trend is not surprising for two reasons—first because of the country's strong efforts to expand its trade corridors and build a greater international presence and, second, because of the close trade connections it has with the rest of Asia Pacific," Mitra said.

Mitra said HSBC had not factored in the potential impact of mining on the Philippines. "So that's an upside if we are able to agree on a strategy on mining on a national level that can make us a big player in that profile and economy," he said.

The Philippines is the fifth most mineral-rich country in the world but has not leveraged great returns out of mining, which is the big-fall opposition from some communities.

Based on HSBC research, global trade will accelerate from 2014 and that trade growth in Asia-Pacific will [illegible] outperform the global average. The forecast also supports China to overtake the US as the world's largest trading nation by 2016.

Demand from Asia-Pacific is seen driving global trade acceleration in 2014. Over the next few years, trade growth in China (8.6) percent), India (9.0 percent), Indonesia (8.1 percent) and Asia (8.0 percent) will remain substantially outpacing global pace.

"Our research projections show optimism for the region's trade prospects in a somewhat challenging environment. Over the next 10 years, trade in Asia and globally is expected to grow 120 percent and 86 percent, respectively," Mitra said.

"The world's largest businesses are continuing to broaden their supply chains across Asia-Pacific, increasingly integrating into the manufacturing process and, therefore, trade.

Chinabank reports ₱5B in '11 profit

CHINA Banking Corp., the banking arm of the sons of tycoon Lucio Tan, reported a first net income of ₱5 billion in 2011, due to lower treasury gains and asset yields.

The amount is a return on equity of 13.72 percent and a return on asset of 2.04 percent, the bank reported to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Meanwhile the bank's network expansion, the bank boosted its core business with gross loans portfolio growing by 22 percent during the three-year average growth for the last decade. This also outpaced the 10-percent industry growth.

By the end of 2011, Chinabank's loan book amounted to ₱330 billion, with all standard segments posting substantial year-on-year growth; corporate loans at 22 percent, consumer loans at 27 percent and commercial loans at 20 percent.

While expanding its lending activities, Chinabank tightened its focus on loan quality leading to the drop in its non-performing loans to 2.09 percent of total loans last year from 3.08 percent a year ago.

With sufficient provisions for probable losses, the bank posted a 2 times from and 4 times brought down its loan-loss provisions by 867 percent to ₱155.1 million. Even with this reduction, its loan loss coverage ratio of 140.6 percent remains among the highest in the industry, the bank said.

"The declining asset yields, however, offset the volume growth leading to a flat net interest income," the bank said.

The bank continued to grow its low-cost deposit, checking and savings accounts (CASA) deposits. The CASA level augmented by 15.2 percent and its share to total gross deposits increased to 46.7 percent, enabling the bank's interest expenses to

Doris C. Dumlao

Farmers, elections and Smartmatic

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

THE AGRICULTURAL sector constitutes the largest voting group in the country but the integrity of its vote will be compromised by the possible decision of Comelec to allow Smartmatic to still run discredited machines for the 2013 and 2016 polls dicisions.

During the 2010 elections, three retired people were routinely called during the House and Senate deliberations of the proposed automated election system.

Those were Manuel Antonio Bernas former Senate President, Jose Pimentel former Senate President who led the agricultural sector back post as congressional hearings that would determine the conduct of elections.

The Alyansa Agrikultura, a coalition of 42 federations and organizations representing all agricultural workers, made a significant contribution to the Senate hearings. Congressional resolution Rep. Teodoro Locsin cited the Act recommendation on a proposed audit procedure that AA had designed with Mahar Mangahas of the Social Weather Stations and Baltazar Endriga, the SGV partner who created and headed the PPCRV's quick count technology at that time.

All also accepted the signatures of the presidential candidate (except Erap) favoring an election audit that was published in major newspapers. However, the Mike Commission turned down the bid proposal.

Today, AA under with retired groups that strongly opposed the Smartmatic machines, renews the bidder for next year's election machines. We hope that the Brillante Commission (the second Executive) does not follow the sad example of the Mike Commission (the former Comelec).

Smartmatic deficiencies

The major deficiencies of the Smartmatic machines during the 2010 elections are too many to cite here. However, we will cite three.

The compact flash cards, that determine how votes would be counted were not certified and found defective only one week before the 2010 elections. It made another twelve, they were changed only three days before election. This is a main reason why there are so many unreadable that remain unresolved.

Several provisions to safeguard the integrity of the votes, such as the able reader lamps and the digital signatures, were not only not provided, but actually disabled.

There is also the very convenient that the votes at the precinct level were the actual votes finally recorded for the election.

The Smartmatic machines may well be second-hand. A Sept. 17, 2011 business report stated: "It acquired Sarlo and acted in one of the precincts in Pike, South Carolina [illegible] the results of the election in Carolina." In which S, 2012 letter to the Brillante Commission, ABS Pilitch Cubero Agatsuhi is a member] stated: "Considering their use in previous election exercises in another country, the question of how old the PCOS machines are becomes a major concern."

Conclusion

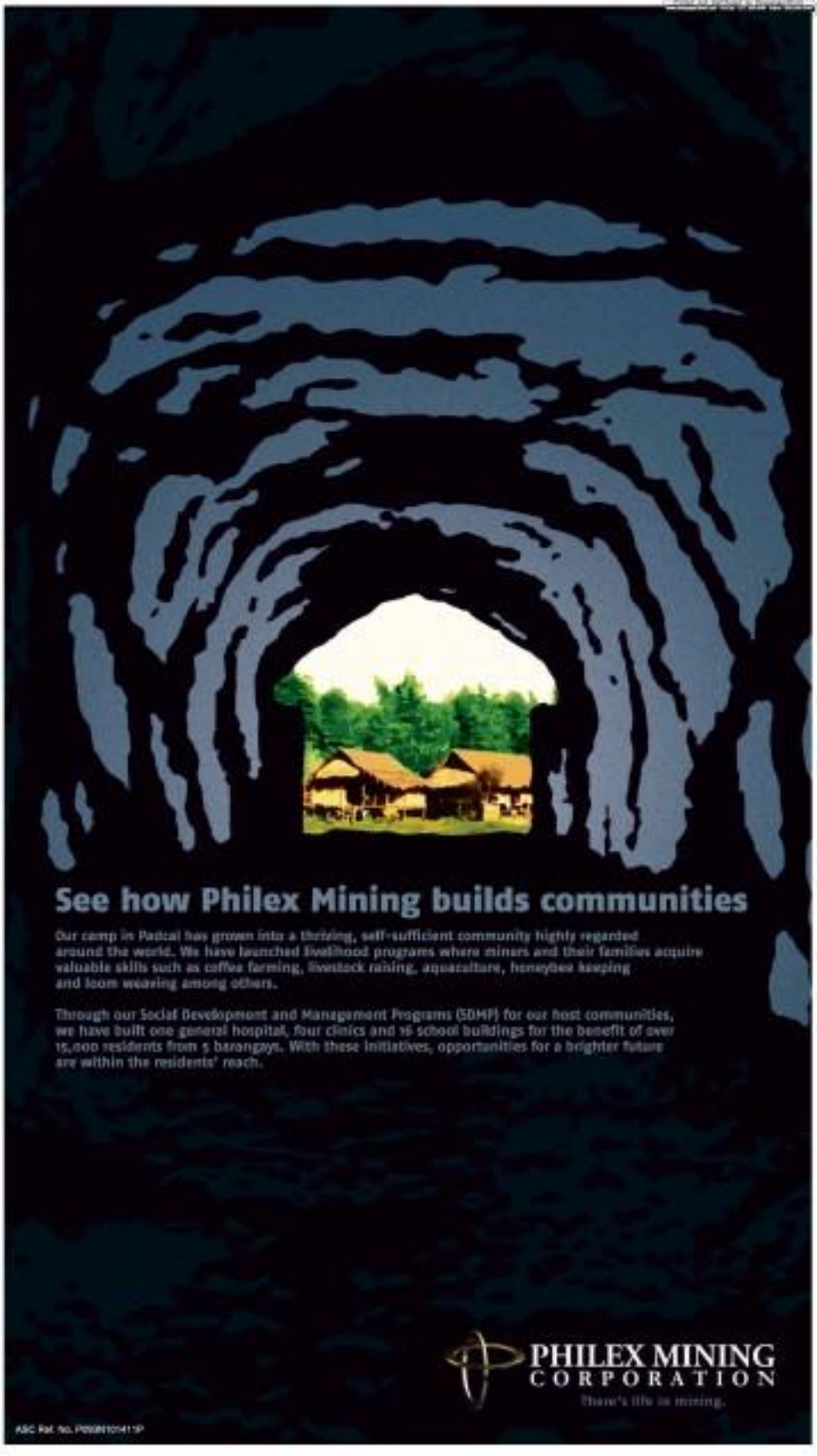
Some at least eight Philippine and international election monitoring groups have cited major deficiencies in Smartmatic that remain undisputed, why allow Smartmatic to bid for next year's crucial elections?

An official argued: "Because Smartmatic may be cheaper." To which a Comelec Commissioner responded: "It is also cheaper to buy planned DEOs, but is it wrong."

Also, Smartmatic is the only one that was a cheaper price, but it is wrong. It would be deplorable if the Brillante Commission follows the misguided direction of the Mike Commission.

March is Women's Month

The only ruling motive longer than the right-tailored sector is women. Chair Wilma Hilao, one of the Movement for Good Governance will explore why many women strongly oppose Smartmatic's possible involvement in next year's elections. This is supported by leaders of the Rural Women's Movement.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PHILEX MINING
CORPORATION
There's life in mining.

2bU
LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Simon San Juan
Contributing Editor Stef Cabal

What's next after your college graduation?

Words of advice from accomplished individuals: Rest and plan your career

By Gideon Isidro
Contributor

WHAT'S NEXT after graduation? There are many options to choose from. You may want to take a rest, or a long vacation. You may want to search for a job right away, or opt to study again.

"ROUNDS"

In James Jean's universe

You've seen his work in Prada's Spring 2007 Fairy campaign. Now, the comic artist sits down with 2bU to talk about his love for details and his creative process

By Vicky Herrera
Contributor

FOR SOME people, their work speaks for itself. For artist James Jean, his work can convey anything from a scream to a whisper. When you look at his detailed, surreal artwork, you are able to take an intimate peek into his thoughts and emotions. It's the kind of direction easy from mind to canvas that has made his work so recognizable.

"I remember drawing a plane once and drawing the wing on the other side in perspective," says Vietnamese-American Jean, who has been creating art since he was in the first grade. The teacher's first reaction was embarrassment.

"That kind of validated me as an artist, and from then on I knew I wanted to be an artist."

Jean has made the successful shift and turned this talent into a successful career. He has built up an impressive portfolio of both fine art and commercial work, from the cover art for DC Comics, to art for publications like Time Magazine, The New York Times, Rolling Stone and ESPN, to celebrity portraits for Philip Lim and a mural and clothing collaboration for Prada.

Whether you think he gets way deep at night or not, Jean is well-appreciated for his creative efforts. His hard work has led to numerous awards, including seven Ignatz, three Harveys, a gold medal from the Society of Illustrators of New York, and a silver medal from the Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles.

His published work includes "Process Recess, Process Recess 2: Portfolio," "Issus: Hope and Illness," "Fables: Covers," "Process Recess 3: The Skateboard Story," "Kinderling 12: Berserkable Petals," "B.B." and more recently, "Echo."

Jean is set to launch his own jewelry line under his brand 2000 this year.

On his recent trip to Manila, he sat down with 2bU to talk about his love for detail and his creative process, and give us a peek into his current sketchbook.

How would you describe your artwork? Has it changed from when you first started in 2000?

I keep changing because I just lose interest in things quickly. I hate repeating myself, so I just bounce from different approaches to make new things, because I'm always experimenting and bored, to bring right back to square.

Are you the type to sketch your art first then plot it on a bigger canvas later on?

With the paintings, I'm trying to be more spontaneous, so planning. It's the same thing with these drawings, there's no sketch or anything. I just go straight into it, so this sketch out then kind of paint organically.

Your work is very like a lot of detail in your work...

I like painting that can work up close and also work when you're far away. When you're painting such large scale, you do have to step back many times, and you're also preparing to be close to it. I like to hide moments of color and play with textures. With these drawings, I guess I'm a little obsessive. Maybe I'm scared to just do something minimal, but I think it's amazing that you can take a blank page, and by adding more marks you can create something that feels like an expression of your inner world. It's magic. (Laughs)

'The intersections of things'

What fascinates you when you're painting a subject?

I like the intersections of things, of things put together, and the contrasts. I like folds of clothing and how hands can be an expression as the face. I like the folds of cloth, the tissues. I think that's when viewers see in my drawings, and maybe that's why there's so much detail in them.

How many sketchbooks do you go through in a month?

In a month? I can't even go through more. I have a lot of sketchbooks and they all contain different periods in my expression. I have sketchbooks that are from puberty like that.

Do you ever feel like sometimes you're losing the reason why you're doing art in the first place?

I think at this point in my career, I have this urge to simplify my life and to just concentrate on my painting, because after a while a lot of opportunities are offered to you. You know you have the ability to do much more than before. I think I've learned the art of saying no, I've had learning to say no, it's not in my vocabulary, but I tend to get pulled in a lot of different directions. I think in the next couple of years, I want to try and turn back to painting. I'm probably working a lot more than I should. I'm always on the go.

How do you keep yourself inspired?

I think it's difficult now for me to concentrate and act and read like I used to, like when I was a teenager, or when I was in college, especially with the Internet. I feel like I have to keep myself inspired. I just try and do a variety of things with my work, so if I'm painting and I get stuck, I just stop and start doing something completely different. Or then, I'm developing a line of jewelry that's completely different disciplines and mediums. The Internet is really misused, it's a great way to get inspired, but also a subway to get distracted.

Between you're moving from sketching to painting, to making jewelry, to designing clothes, to photography, do you feel like there are any differences in your style?

Hopefully it all feels like part of a coherent universe, so the jewelry looks like it's plucked from my sketchbooks or my paintings, or the same ideas are expressed that way. My intent is that it all feels like it belongs together.

THE AUTHOR with James Jean at the Poly Bonbon exhibit

Bound by tees

By Pido Martinez
Student
correspondent
Ateneo de Manila
University

DESPITE our busy lifestyles, we seldom remember. The sad issues in our society that need the most attention. With something to comfortably sit on our every day budget, you can help deliver the message of (sometimes) overlooked ideas such as love and equality.

"A WORLD Without Strangers," by Gisele Jayce Hudson O. Go to Print.

What started as a summer concern last year grew Gisele and artist cousin Velbert Aragon, pyrotechnic on the simple idea of a "World Without Strangers."

According to Beatrice Lim, Gisele mom's business development officer, they asked artists to submit statements or graphic shirts, designed according to how they interpreted the theme.

Each contestant was allowed to submit three designs, which were judged according to certain criteria. They were allowed to decide on the shirt's body color, but the design itself was limited to a maximum of five colors. Screen minimum size classes, and 15 finalists were given consolation prizes.

The powerful theme inspired creative designs and thought-provoking ideas, such as one finalist's entry, Gisele Jayce Hudson O. De la Vela, it was a design on the concept of "Metro" in black-and-white.

"Many loosely translates to 'Shadow,'" she says of her shirt inspiration. "Both shadows are bound by an illusion when they distinguish between themselves and the universe, that one is apart from the other, when in fact it's not," she explains.

"I felt that this perspective really represented (contrast) philosophy of having a World Without Strangers, since it really shows how despite all differences, in the grand scheme of things, we're really just one," she says.

For Liz Delaiza contestant, shirt, and inspiration was a gay shirt over the words, "There is no longer I. No longer you. No more us or them. No race or there. There are no others. This is a world without strangers."

Our shirt now calls on people to "think stereotypes," while another gives the major key value counts in life: a mixture of common sense, human attitude and curiosity. There are reminders on "how to use life"—"Use it like there's no tomorrow. Live life like you're dying."

"After would've thought a simple piece of clothing can be a resounding call to a mass of viewers, unity and love? Unintended it also that are timeless, no time or a shirt.

The Gisele Jayce "World Without Strangers" shirts are available at all Glorietta outlets.

It's a shirt design contest that speaks of love and equality

"NO STRANGERS," by Marianne Margaret Cruz

The return of the 'Son'

In his best book yet, Percy Jackson is back with a new crew—and, boy, we've missed him

By Rod S. De Vera

PERCY JACKSON concluded the rousing adventures of modern demigod Percy Jackson in 2011's "Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book Five: The Last Olympian," and followers celebrated the accomplishments, thrilling tales are Greek mythology put in their superlative setting the last of Percy who proved to be a worthy protagonist.

That seemed to be the case when Riordan launched a new series in 2011, "The Heroes of Olympus," whose first book, "The Heroes of Olympus, Book One: The Lost Hero," featured the familiar setting of Camp Half-Blood, but no sign of Percy.

Instead, we get a new cast along with the titular hero, Jason, who turns out to be—gasp—not a Greek demigod at all, but instead a rather-threatened Roman one. Riordan tackles the tricky differences between the Greek and Roman pantheons, even as he chronicles a new war, with the Greek and her Gaea and her ing particularly motherly in her place to take down Olympus. "The Lost Hero" was exciting because of the new ideas, though Jason remained a somewhat cryptic character.

In it was much to the quiz and the enjoyment of the series fans than "The Heroes of Olympus Book Two: The Son of Neptune" (Disney/Hyperion Books, New York, 2011, 521 pages), now with Percy back in the fold, in action. Well, sort of.

Percy had apparently completely lost his memory for the last eight months, and remembers very little of his previous life. Jason is also mysteriously missing. Enter Jupiter, the Roman equivalent of Camp Half-Blood, complete with legions and cohorts, in the California Bay Area (Camp Half-Blood is a resort area, in long Island).

Percy meets his new companions, the eloquently Reyna Levesque, daughter of Pluto, and the eccentric Frank Zhang, whose parentage is yet to be fully defined. In order to better know's relationships, the three set off to a quest to defeat the oldest of the giants they cannot in a bid to forestall the power of the gods.

Along the way, Percy starts to get pieces of his memory back, even as some of the hero's big questions from "The Lost Hero" are answered. Also, check out the unexpected new nemesis the trio gathers along the way.

Sympathetic

Besides series Percy as if he has never been gone, as the Son of Poseidon (now the time he was of Neptune after the Romans translation) is his usual sympathetic and sympathetic self, also true here.

While the quest they set off on seems to have the same structure as those from the previous series, Riordan has loaded "The Son of Neptune" with many truly refreshing and original ideas, particularly with modern pop culture references they bump into. Ideals in this fictional universe, Amazon.com (Kindle) and Barnes & Noble's Nook, have some really compelling back stories, and the overall feel is something really different from the feel of the Olympian series. With a familiar hero in a totally different setting, the overall result is the best Riordan book to date, a novel with appearances of new characters and many favorite characters return.

With Riordan apparently putting together a third team for his pantheon series and for now one with the upcoming "The Heroes of Olympus, Book Three: The Mark of Athena" out in the spring, readers will look forward to a couple more adventures this series before.

Aside from a good way to understand half the Greek and Roman mythologies, now is a great time to be a fan of Percy Jackson and discover a much bigger mythical world than ever before. Well, Percy Jackson, and welcome back.

Available in paperback from Amazon.com *and* Barnes & Noble.com.

Lin-spired

'The story of Jeremy Lin shows that it's not too late to do what you really love—and be good at it'

By Ray Steven N. Ezigo
Contributor

THE NOW-FAMOUS "Lin-sanity" was caused by one man who has taken the New York Knicks on a seven-game winning streak: Jeremy Lin, a point guard from Harvard University, who was undrafted, but who eventually broke into the NBA.

Lin started his career in the NBA with his hometown team, the Golden State Warriors, but unfortunately, his name was always on the bench list, probably because of the team's explosive guards, such as Monta Ellis and Stephen Curry.

Lin's rise to fame began only recently in the NBA season (2011-2012), with his new team, the New York Knicks. It was as if he was destined to show up in a game against the New Jersey Nets, and score a career high of 25 points (his career high is now 38 points).

In the eyes of a hard-core sports analyst, that would be very impressive; in the eyes of a non-NBA fan, it would be an amazing feat, how he rose from being unappreciated and having humble beginnings, to what he is now, the star of the New York Knicks.

I find it so inspiring story, such as the one of our very own Manny Pacquiao, who started from being almost nothing, and is now a champion and a rich and famous man.

Lin-sanity

The quickly spreading Jeremy Lin-piration, the photoshopped NBA game covers, the various Jeremy Lin sensation, the concept shoes, and many more show that even if the guy was not drafted like LeBron James, Kobe Bryant or Derrick Rose, he could still be the biggest star. The story of Lin shows that, clichéd as it may seem, it's not too late to do what you really love—and be good at it.

Some people just give up when they think they might be too old to do what they want to do. Some people tend to "grow up" and forget how they once dreamed of being something they could only imagine. Remember the things we used to love in order to see that even if they were little things, they can inspire us to do better and come up with even bigger achievements than expected.

A true anchoring story is what people today want. The New York Knicks already have loyal fans every time they play. When Jeremy Lin played against the Washington Wizards, the Washington Post described Lin as "everybody's favorite underdog."

But that was not the only heart-soothing situation during Lin's game. The Washington Wizards were cued in the crowd cheering for the other team, especially when the stilled venue like the Atlanta Hawks came to town. This instance was very unique, because they were only cheering for one person, and, yes, it was Jeremy Lin.

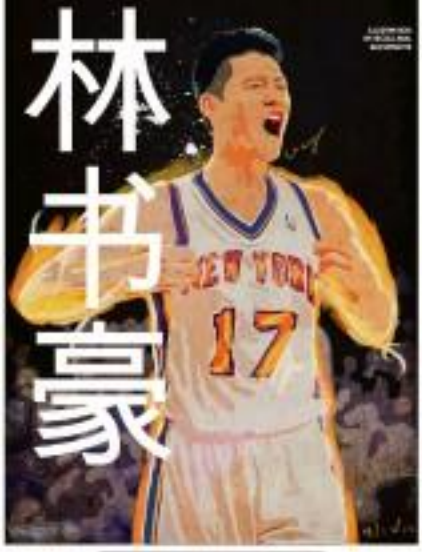
Not too late

Who would not be inspired by this guy? He opportunity for basketball greatness almost never came. Before high school, where majority of the people play basketball, I never really had the chance to play, until I told myself that it was not too late to learn.

My first ever league game came last January, and my first point was my only point in the game. Hearing the story of Lin pushed me to practice every week and not be discouraged by the challenges I know I will eventually face.

A person like me could then say as the famous Rocky quote goes: "It ain't over till it's over." Perhaps someone you once were you are, because in the end, trying to satisfy other people becomes a worthless cause. The only person who can make you happy is yourself, and you should not let anything stop you from doing what you think is right.

I learned that from Jeremy Lin's underdog turned-superstar story. Lin didn't become good as shooting three baskets like an all-star overnight, it just takes a little push...no, a shove...to get you going, and to do what you really want to be good at.



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What's next after your college graduation?

From page B1

All of them look like good choices, and like a multiple-choice question, we are asked to choose the best answer. Fortunately, our life is not an exam in college, and we can be coached while figuring it out.

Productive rest

One shouldn't feel guilty resting after graduation. "I would advise rest for those who need it," says Rong Austria, senior vice president of Philippine Seminole Bank (PSB) and national president of the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP).

Dr. Richard DG. Gonzales agrees. "I personally feel that with the four to five years of continuous work and exertion in schools, and probable thesis to an decades of review for board examinations, a well-graduate needs relaxation."

Dr. Gonzales is an HR and talent development consultant in the Philippines and in Asia Pacific countries. He is a professorial lecturer at the graduate school of the University of Santo Tomas (UST), and president and chairperson of the Philippine Educational Measurement and Evaluation Association (Pemea). He is a certified management and educational psychologist by the Psychological Association of the Philippines.

But recommended rest, however, should be used productively. It should be used to discover one's self and what one wants to do in life, or to plan for a career. "Good learning and doing some self-assessment must percolate a fresh graduate during this rest period after graduation," says Dr. Gonzales.

Career planning

According to Andrew, one should be able to assess "where he wants to go."

"Getting a job, or embarking on a career, is a logical option, but it's not for everyone," he says.

"Some people waste years following that route, only to end up as entrepreneurs. Others take up further studies. It should be a period of reflection—to point in making into something that one hasn't really thought about," he concludes.

Dr. Gonzales advises graduates to have a career goal and a vision for the next five to 10 years. "He must have a target career, a preferred company, and most of all, a salary goal. Having these would help a fresh graduate focus his application process. In doing this, he must become more aware of what he can offer, what his strengths and limitations are, before he applies for a targeted job," he says.

And what's the proper length for a break? "It's relative—maybe one month to three months, or even just a few weeks," says Dr. Gonzales.

Andrew Silay, a BS Statistics magna cum laude graduate of De La Salle University-Manila and currently a professor in his alma mater, says his break took about three months. He discourages going short on months.

"If you do rest, seeing the world and learning more about life, do it only to acquire more maturity," reminds Austria.

To those of you who are reading this that they'll run of college, or even if you're still in high school, I advise that you plan your careers as early as possible to help you make good decisions.

The next step is to find the ideal job. If you've made some career plans, you'll have an easier time talking through the maze of jobs and opportunities available.

The common advice of our alumni counselors now adorn a similar thread. Choose a job that will let you grow in the career track you want to be in. Who needs the following, in order of importance: "God's purpose in your life, career track, training and opportunities, connections, prestige and money."

Andrew gives a similar list. "Opportunities for career growth, fit between the company culture and one's values, and the reputation of the company as an employer."

Dr. Gonzales provides premise: "His choice should be based primarily on the career goals. The graduate should be able to answer affirmatively whether this is the job that he really wants, the company that he really wants to work for, and whether his salary goal is present or not."

A word of caution on jobs, though. "Of course, not every job offer is perfect," Dr. Gonzales warns. "There are always drawbacks and disincentives. But at the end of the day, the fresh grad should consider whether his personal and career goals are met to some extent by the job offered to him."

Going to school again?

Taking higher studies needs planning. Make sure you have a reason to do so. Otherwise, you may just be wasting your time," says Pew.

Pew's advice is that if the graduate's career track involves taking certification exams, he should take time to study for them. If, however, he plans on having a career track that doesn't need it, then he doesn't really need to take it.

It is recommended that MBA be taken after some experience in the corporate world. "After one has acquired the corporate experience that would make graduate school case studies more meaningful. Without that kind of grounding, MBA school is an exercise in mere theoretical swashbuckling," says Austria.

Dr. Gonzales recommends at least two years' experience in the corporate world before pursuing graduate studies.

A lot of planning is required every step of the way, from applying for a first job, to pursuing careers and choosing to study again. After you've matched with your traps and removed your bags from your beloved classmates, take time to rest and plan your career.

Happy Graduations, and God-speed to all our graduates!

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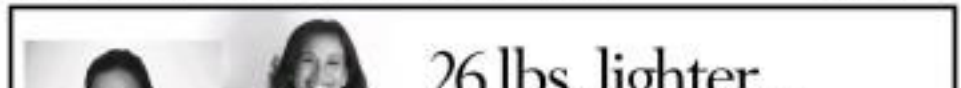

THE FAMOUS iPad case

NICE counterpoint (with that white cuff) to an otherwise busy outfit (think floral explosion)

THE TOP handle carried as interpreted by Roberto Cavalli

THE DUAL compartment top handle bag

The best picks: from doctor bags to iPad cases

Yields at Milan Fashion Week

Ingrid Chua-Go

THE BAG HAG DIARIES

MILAN FASHION Week began with Chanel and ended with Roberto Cavalli. Jammed-wise, my 5-worthy shoesday would have to include Dolce & Gabbana, Roberto Cavalli, Prada, Versace, and Fendi.

Each of those brands has something unique to bring to the fashion table. Dolce & Gabbana enlisted for a modern look for epic beats. Roberto Cavalli cleverly fused nostalgia and materials for the dressers, maxi and mini. Versace had beautiful romantic shoe dreamers, Prada marketed with black and psychedelic prints to adore, and Fendi doubled the waist back in with corset belts.

In bags and accessories, Dolce & Gabbana topped the other designers, it only for the sheer number of bags on the runway. It was a crowded field.

Some of my most memorable bags for fall/Winter 2012-13 season:

1. Insect with stirrup bags: In the show, the piece I remember all too clearly was the top handle doctor bag in crocodile with the gold stirrup as bags. This piece, however, is way more practical, and he who looks of it, lights!

2. Fendi iPad cases: If you don't have an iPad yet, you will want one now after Fendi debuted our very luxurious iPad cases. Apart from those cases that had everyone in the venue talking, the brand also has brand-ID basic totes which came in crocodile details, belt, and calfskin finishes.

3. Dolce & Gabbana mouthpoint Miss Sicily: Dolce & Gabbana never really changed or occasion: when it worked obviously well for them. However, they keep the product fresh by using new fabrics and textures for their signature bag, the Miss Sicily. The bag came in different versions, from heavily embellished to basic leather. But this trendlipoint stood out.

Functional and structured

4. Roberto Cavalli structured top handle satchel. One of the bags I loved at Roberto Cavalli was the mini hardcase which overlooked a gold or evening clutch. But the main functional charger I bags came in the form of a structured satchel with a wider base. Spot on with the style, as this is still a very popular bag choice.

5. Versace clutch: It's the wrist cuff clutch for This is actually a pretty brilliant concept. Instead of a clutch which most really leave your hands free for holding a drink at a cocktail party, you've got the Versace clutch which lets you to wear the leather bracelet/cuff bangle while holding the clutch! That's called fashion team-wearability!

6. Prenagano structured clutch with signature: It's a return to the classic signature handwear of Ferragamo. Ferragamo was core, or really about fashion—it has always been about luxury, and this has passed-all. Miss subor brands are going this "classic look" route.

7. Prada top handle with compartment: At Prada's FW 2012-13 show, I saw a return to more basic traditional bag shapes like the framed doctor bag. It came in basic black and browns, but also in more neutrals behind here. Also in the show was this top-handle bag with extra compartments which might be great for travel.

8. Ted's Miley Bag: The classic Miley bag that was once Ted's signature has been reinvented in a more versatile carryall that can be converted into two different shapes. Thoughtful considerations were also made, with the strap thicker so it doesn't cut into the shoulder if the bag becomes too heavy.

9. Valentin Lona Clutch: Valentin has always kept it fun free. They came out with lions-inspired bags that double as clutches, with removable straps. The brand thinks of its customers—after strap zippers along the body of the bag, the shoulder strap is thick but isn't a painful drag.

10. Furla doctor bag: Already known for the Piper bag and this fit 2012's Amazonas bag, Furla comes up with something simple and timeless. This is definitely a bag that will be good for more than one season, and very light!

Ingrid Chua-Go is the online publisher of www.thebaghagharies.com. Follow her on twitter.com/thebaghag.

GUCCI'S signature line handbags is evident in this classic-looking bag.

Seaside lifestyle inspires new watches —be it the Hamptons or Boracay

Two-century-old legacy is in sync with today's living

Text and photos by Walter Ang
Contributor

SWISS WATCHMAKER Baume & Mercier launched several times to an outdoor exhibit at Fashion Walk, Greenbelt 5.

The exhibit had whimsical items to show how its designs capture the essence of "relaxing seaside living."

Christian Barresi was at the opening looking chic in mustard gold tunic, with Emerson Yeo, managing director of Luxorne, the exclusive distributor of Baume & Mercier in the Philippines.

At its brightly lit and welcoming display at Atkins, Greenbelt 5, Baume & Mercier's managing director for Southeast Asia Christian Barresi said, "We are all about family values and the celebration of moments and milestones. We are excited to present Baume & Mercier's latest collection, which embodies our brand's vision of conviviality and authenticity."

Heritage and legacy

Richemont stressed the company's close to two-centuries (since 1830) watchmaking history. "Some brands do not make their own watches, but we actually have a history of making watches."

Baume & Mercier draws from its legacy while reinterpreting some of its popular watch models to match the lifestyle and values of today's individuals.

"I believe that the Philippine market will come in love (here now lines because Filipinos are known for their refined taste and sophistication)," he said.

"Our concept is anchored on a global concept of seaside living, so it can be anywhere, it can be the Hamptons, it can be Boracay," he says. "It represents an environment where you can maximize milestones."

"So us, it's family that's important. Many people acquire or receive a Baume & Mercier watch on special occasions like a birthday or graduation or anniversary. We are there when you spend quality time with your loved ones."

Museum piece

The 2011 Hampton collection is inspired by a museum piece from the 1940s. The updated design keeps a rectangular shape, distinctive stained domed volume, curved case side and enhanced curved scratch-resistant sapphire crystal windows.

The collection has a number of self-winding or automatic chronograph versions with ceramic, worn brass. Its straight alligator strap comes with an adjustable triple folding clasp.

The ladies' pieces carry a signature pulls per shaped alligator or satin-finished polished metal attachment with an integrated case and bracelet that follows a cleaner line. "The unique shape of the streamlined makes it lighter and more comfortable on the wrist," said Barresi.

There are two types of diamond embellishment: 20 diamonds in the curved case side, or bezel-set row of 36 diamonds over the satined domed volume. A more embellishe piece has 86 diamonds with a total of 1.78 carats.

The back of the watch has a "Sundeck dome" (lightly etched shapes across a plain face), revealing wooden decks on a boardwalk to deliver "an unrivalled close-up view."

"We think about details like this," said Barresi. "The bezel is immovable—one's important moments."

CHRISTIAN Barresi, managing director of Baume & Mercier Northeast Asia

Interchangeable straps

Linea, with its diamond-set bezel and prominent numerals, will appeal to "the contemporary self-expressive woman."

Originally launched in 1988, it became an international bestseller, suited for its "confident allure and femininity." The mirrored model has an enlarged domed crystal shape and interchangeable bracelets in metal, satin and black calfskin.

Capeland, with its single-push chronograph from 1940. These models are equipped with self-winding mechanical movements with a flyback chronograph function for instantaneous resetting of the time function.

Classima combines the simplicity of self-winding mechanical movements and stainless steel case. Its striking expression such as dual time zone, power reserve. The watch's case back features a scratch-resistant sapphire crystal window displaying its internal mechanisms.

TORN OPEN

MAISON Martin Margiela. Unofficially, another Filipino, Adam de Guzman, heads this brand established in 1989. For a first collection, this avant-ensemble consists of an enlarged checkered shirt with a cashmere pleated skirt, as if torn on to reveal a layer of a Angelina Jolie.

SEWN ON

COMME des Garcon—Rei Kawakubo's cast-couture coat is brilliant pink tinted wool with the sleeves sewn make this flat garment a cape, actually. Fashion is amusing when you get the point, and the point is not to be serious.

CUTAWAY

JUNYA Watanabe—Tailored like a military overcoat, the front is cut away from the body to reveal a soft ribbed knit dress. It is draped over the arms into like a Cape. The model wear rich wine pants or cream cloud gown, and AW look stunning. This is the coat to wear it off Winter 2012.

DOUBLE SHIFT

HUSSEIN Chalayan—He brings back his penchant for winter layering via this dress over a shift. Chalayan cut windows in his garments, like cross sections, allowing you to assemble what's going on beneath.

SARONG

CHLOE—The LBD for 2012 is start yet seductive, the fit-and-flare silhouette tied to your specifications, in liquid double-faced silk charmeuse.

RUFFLES

LANVIN—After Elbaz celebrates his 30th year at Lanvin. This LBD has cascading white electric pleated ruffles. As it curves around the dress, it hides a woman's flaws and celebrates her assets.

TUX LOVE

JEAN Paul Gaultier—The gold kitmaster wasn't a waiter's jacket cropped short and worn with matching pants, cut and belted like denim jeans.

Top 10 trends at Paris Fashion Week

From suit jackets at Hermès to ruffles at Lanvin, here's what the fashion gods delivered

By Larry Levine
contributor

THE BEST ITEMS shown in the Paris collections were in many ways similar to the fun clothes. These garments will start trends in retail and the like, done by readily available labels like Zara and H&M.

These clothes are bound to become collectibles because they are comfortably wrong, mixable, yet tweaked with the time and edges of new colors, cool fabrics, and twists of design and silhouette.

Let us examine the 10 most important showings, part of the top 10 fashion designers. From the catwalk to the sidewalk, these looks are sure to go viral on the Internet. It's about creativity married with commercialism, unique yet wearable. That is French style innovation; we call it Gallic flair.

WHITE

YVES Saint Laurent—Creative director Stefano Pilati's final pantsuit, similar to Saint Laurent's version in the '60s.

SUIT JACKET

HERMES—Capucine chic means a reversible tailored jet ornate man's suit. With Hermès' famous silk scarfs to boot, a dress-up for fat-pocket weeklies.

KICK PLEATS

RENOO—Filipino-born French Carol Lims and Umberto Leon paired a floor-length pleated and semi-peep-toe shoe as the day-to-night basic piece to own. It is flirtatious, figure-friendly and age-appropriate from 20 to 80 years old.

From runway to real life

I ENJOY GUSCING out the new collections of designers during Fashion Week, but I have to admit, I love checking out the hair and make-up more. I find that getting inspired by runway looks is fun. I try to copy the looks I like and test them out when I go out to dinner.

If you're suffering from a beauty rut, jump-start your beauty makeover. Most of the time all you really have to do is change your hair (even just bangs) and where you part it; you don't even need to change your wardrobe. See, only is it fun, it is low-pressure.

Here are some looks fresh off the runway that are easy to do, for guaranteed big impact.

If you think you're always too-made up, let your hair down and let Chloé's look inspire you. This amazingly fresh look is quite simple: loose hair with soft waves, fluid brows and clear skin. The fastest way to get this type of soft waves is to twist your hair in a bun while it's still wet and dry with a blow dryer. Once dry, release the bun and voila!

Apparently, the makeup artist for this look emphasized the brows by brushing it up and filling in with color if needed.

Personally I like using MAC's brow fix to do this and I feel I don't need to color in mine it already has so illuminous, you may add a peachy color to finish the look.

Since my skin doesn't go well with peach shades, I use my Chloé gloss that's more on the pink side.

The trick when copying a look is to make it your own. You don't have to buy the exact shade that was used on the model(s) in fact, I recommend just using products you know suit you already.

Stella McCartney

Stella McCartney's look is simple, strong and fun at the same time. The hair is just tied without being combed, then fixed in a bun on the back.

Like Chloé's look, the skin is kept clean and eyebrows groomed. The stylists applied a coat of Lower Lash Laid-Out 24-Hour Mascara followed by a Shine-Japanese gel.

Shake this look your own by using any colored mascara. I'm not talking about black or brown but a fun shade like green, purple or blue, like used on the runway.

For the lipids, choose a shade related to what you chose as a look of lashes—any colored mascara such as Makeup Forever and Shu Uemura. You may use it on first in the corner and ask for assistance to get a second opinion.

Using colored mascara may seem out there at first but it is actually more subtle than using those shades as an eye shadow. In fact, this is a fast day-to-night look. Just add the same color eye shadow at night to strengthen your look.

It's all about putting your best. That's what was seen on Diane Von Furstenberg models. It was sleek, shiny and powerful.

Stylists used Phyto Professional Pivi Gel and the low pony was tied in a box. Lightly applied silvery gray eye shadow was then used on the eyes and a little blush and lip stain finished the look.

Try putting your hair and what a change it will do to your look. Most of the time small changes get you a long way. Try new things now.

KNOCKOUT!

Rita Francisco-Prieto

STELLA McCartney

DIANE Von Furstenberg

CHLOE

ANDI Manzano, Mario de Guzman, Cholina Sarte, Enrique Gonzalez, Tim Yap, Marc Nunez, Kevin Tan, JM Rodriguez, Gaetano Figueroa, Michelle Sia

IAM Parlez, Ria and Carlo Miguel

LOUIE Tirrell, Opic manhaving officer Cassa Reis

VANESSA Johnson, Patty Tantoh

ANTONI ni Rosario and Samantha Nichelle, Sarah Meier-Allianz and Lorenz Allianz, Mia Ayuso and Mark Nicosia

CHOLO Barreto, Jacqui Manzano-Flores, Patty Ang

CHEF Fernando Aracama, Chef Carlo Miguel, Raj Sadhwani, Ivan Zulueta, GP Reyes, Tim Yap, David Chavez, Marco de Guzman, Stephen Ko, Louie Yumul

STEPHANIE Zobel, Jenel Epperson, Kevin Tan, JM Rodriguez

Ultra-exclusive night place marks first anniversary

CIS Olondriz, Fabio Ide, Aida Aristotzy, Mark Pesqui de Dios

OPUS TURNED one year young recently. The beautiful set and the night owls on the fun lane dug into the ultra exclusive seven-course menu by top chef Carlo Miguel, which included Duck Sang Bicolito with cauliflower, Jean Vide US Angus Beef Short Ribs with Cabernet Sauvignon veal, and Mushroom Pudding and Truffled Potato Foam.

The bash got on a roll with the stuffing of glamorous from day of Score, Mark Anzaldo,

Andrea Aramen, Bonds by Di Dee, Bross, Maxima Torres and The Shoe Boutique for dubbings.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Maurice Arnache
Photos by Alex Van Hagen
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The masters of house music were there—John Stanwell, Raul Ty and Mumbel Dizon, and Sonya Smith with her father, the legendary Pepe Smith, in his performing together a Red collaboration prepared especially for Opus, jokingly.

Well-wishers and guests sipped drinks and cocktails by Jose Cuervo, Johnnie Walker, Grey Goose, Bacardi and Hennessy. We raised our glasses of chilled Moet et Chandon for the toast by hosts Sarah Meier and Tiara Yap and the Opus partners. "Thank you to all of you who have contributed to the masterpiece of a year that Opus has had," the Opus partners said. Wild applause greeted the toast, jokingly.

Fila Cup

The 'hub of 'the sport of kings,' the Polo Club, became the launching pad for the most house of sports shoes when the Fila Polo Cup was held recently, jokingly.

During the games, launched was the new, luxurious Skele-Toes, the awesome four-toed shoes worn by multi-titled model-turned-host Tim Yap, Borge Mosetes, Georgina Wilson and Ella Shahbaker, jokingly.

The Fila Cup was, again, an affair of glitz and glam, as it boasted installation art by Dexter Lagdameo, and JM Rodriguez singing the National Anthem, naturalmente.

Pilot first couple—gorgeous Lito Abad Santos and Sarah Albert—as well as Fila VP for advertising Ana Abad Santos welcomed guests and players.

Butch led the cheers for the Love Goal Game, while Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Cris Albert did the honors of the ceremonial toss for the High Goal Game.

The question that had eyebrows raised up to their hairlines (for those without them, read: 'what the heck is that?" Well, it's the unique Skele-Toes campaign, dubbings, where all you have to do is look for the most amazingly strange, sexiest, odd, unbelievable and "what-the-heck-is-that" creation during photo. Post it on the Fila Philippines Facebook page, and the Facebook community votes for the winner. The winner gets to cover in an exciting Guess and Skechers-Accessories evening his or her favorite Skele-Toes. Sounds like loads of fun, dubbings.

As always, the 2012 Fila Polo Cup has its social dimension. Sales of products during the event benefited the Open Like Mindanao.

Fila president Butch Albert called on people to support his project "1000 for 2007" by Operation Compassion. For every purchase of Fila products, FMSI will go to 100 families affected by Typhoon "Sendong."

Bottles of cold bubbly champagne popped, cocktails, while the mouthwatering pool-munchers were dazzled by the awesome fireworks, jokingly.

Check out Fila shops around the country, or log on to www.fila.com.ph; Shakeitsports on Facebook and follow @Shakeitsports on Twitter.

Ipanema

That model-famous Brazilian flip-flop brand Ipanema took its spring/summer 2012 collection from the beach to the runway in an exceptional collaboration with talented fashion designers Jhan Chumpe, Ique Reales, Ramil Ramirez, Kendi Noceda and Catherine Cerillo, dubbings.

Naturalmente, the sartorial happening had outstandingly personalities such as preggers model Lalay Robiato, Actor Sam Barbey and Kaya player Jonah Romero, and, remember, Ipanema's top executives such as managing director Paco Elizalde and marketing manager Gerlie Lourdes.

"The head and one of the Ipanema heart is in rich Brazilian heritage," Dave said. "With that in mind, it aims to offer young fashionistas a diversity of flip-flop styles that are not just fit for the beach, but also for a variety of occasions—whether it's a chic day trip with friends or a stylish evening out with someone special."

True to his statement, jokingly, Ipanema's awesome affair was a fantastic visual feat, as sleek beauty flip-flops were paired impeccably with a variety of stylish ensembles. The show did not fail to do justice to the latest summer wear trends, thanks to refined, eye-catching footwear options, getting every event wear a fashion forward for comfortable ease, dubbings.

FORMER ambassador to Spain Ana Ugarte, Fila's Cris Albert, Lolo Hanson, Teresa Colley, Mariaris Zobel

JANT Zobel, Jon Johan, Butch Albert, Inigo Zobel, Gus Aguirre, Carlo Manese, Bruce Colley, Santi Laborde

WANDA Lowenthal and daughter Ana Abad Santos

BRUCE Colley, Don Zobel, Carlos Manese

ROS Rodriguez, Antonio Rodrigo, Cathen David

DANTE Silverio, Dj Albert, Rhian Ramos

ANTHONY Mesam, Iphi Bolmar, Dann Dnampo, mini Ipanema managing director Petal Elizalde (second from left)

WANDAVA Camille Carreon (center) with Kaya player Jonah Romero and Ateneo player Mike Barkey

DANIEL Marasigan, Luke Jalvan

SARAH Meier

PRINCESS Marzan, Tess Wan

Furniture and home accessories sale at LRI Plaza

LRI Design Plaza holds its ongoing building-wide "Summer Sale" until March 11, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. The event, open to the public, has over 30 showrooms featuring high-end furniture, home accessories and furnishings, five art galleries with works of masters and contemporaries alike, and other seasonal merchandise items offering up to 50 percent discount on selected items and services, such as photography and food fare.

The sale is linked with the national celebration of the Design Week Philippines by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Ciems), covered by Presidential Proclamation 227 and marked every third week of March and October annually. Its objective is to promote the Philippines as an design hub as well as tourism destination for culture and art.

LRI Design Plaza is at 219 Ricardo Bonna St., Bel-Air 2 Village, Makati City. For more inquiries, call (632) 772-2855/56 or e-mail lri_dp@yahoo.com

Summer writing workshop for children

Creative writing classes for children and young adults ages eight to 18 are on in the second week of April at Window Towne 103 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati. Classes are divided according to age of participants. The workshops will be conducted by one of the country's established writers and book authors. Click on to log on. Interested parties may call 0908.881.4748/0920.412.4430 or e-mail chitsta June@yahoo.com

Cooking classes

The Abays Kitchen offers the following one-day culinary classes: Restaurant Beer Cellars, Lantaw Dishes, March 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Homemade Sausages, March 17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Pasa Kakaire, March 17, 2-6 p.m.; Bagas Free Desserts, March 24, 1:30-5:30 p.m.; and International Pasta Workshop, March 31, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Certificate courses with hands-on practice offered both on weekdays and weekends with the following schedules: Advanced Pastry Class, Feb. 28, March 1-2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Basic Culinary, weekdays, March 6-9 and March 20-23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and weekends, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Fundamentals of Bakery Production, weekdays, March 12-16, and March 27-30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and weekends, March 3, 10, 17, and 24, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Basic Decorating, March 28-31, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Enroll now and get early bird discounts for the upcoming Junior Culinary and Teen Workshops scheduled April 13-15 and May 8-11 and April 17-20 and May 13-18. For more information, log on to www.theabayskitchen.com; e-mail contactus@theabays

kitchen_cent. or call (632) 892-5811 local 108.

Food styling class

Basic food styling and food photography class will be held March 11, 1-6 p.m., in Greenhills.

Topics to be covered include basic composition of food, styling, basic principles and techniques on food photography, and hands-on preparation of pasta and salad for a photo shoot. Materials to be used, apron, towel, mirror tiolle, kitchen towel, bucket and branches. Lecturers are chef Pau Sevilla-Santos and Jo Avila. Only 12 slots available. Call (0917.5209810)

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Julie Ane G. Velarde

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Mogul' sons team up

THE SONS have succeeded in doing what their parents have been trying to do for 30 years. Dondon Monteverde of Viva Entertainment and Vincent del Rosario of TV5 signed a film-picture deal on Wednesday. Del Rosario confirmed the news, adding that their first two projects are Erik Matti's adult drama "Rigodon" and Topel Lee's horror flick "Tupang." Reynold Sun Diego Jr.

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HK film forum like a blind-dating event

By Reynold San Diego Jr.

THE 11TH Hong Kong Asia-Film Financing Forum (HAF) from March 19 to 21 is like a big "blind-dating" event where filmmakers meet with investors, producers, sales agents and distributors—hopefully to secure deals for their chosen projects.

Roger Garcia, executive director of the HK International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS), said the pitching forum "matches" filmmakers with possible partners and allows them to hang out and hook up with collaborators all over the world.

The forum, organized by the HKIFFS, is considered "one of Asia's most important film financing platforms."

Setting in at tough, Garcia noted, "Very competitive. This year we received 259 submissions, narrowed down to 32." He said HAF prioritized projects that showed both artistic merits and financial viability: "A project should look promising on paper, but shouldn't be unrealistic and expensive to produce."

Entries from Malaysia and Taiwan to the Czech Republic and Slovenia made it, plus Filipino filmmaker Yuhanah Roy Jr.'s Cinemalaya 2012 entry, "Lola Igma." (Last year, between special members in Vancouver for his debut film, "Bilog Buto.")

Round-robin style

Dealing the HAF out at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, each filmmaker will have a month for half-hour meetings with investors, round-robin-style.

But it's not literally like a blind date, Garcia said. "A business matching division first studies the projects and looks for people who may be interested."

HAF considers the track record and previous films of both parties, he said.

HAF offers annual "networking" sessions as well, said Garcia. At the end of the forum, awards—with cash prizes—will be handed out. HAF Award (Ex-HK and non-HK projects, US$20,000); Netpac Award, $6,666; Technicolor Asia, $20,000; Docu Project, 5,000 euros; Fellowship of Asian Pictures Award, $2,700; HAF Script Development Fund, HK$100,000.

"This year, for the first time, five finalists will give

BUSINESS 13

PITCHING event organizer Roger Garcia (right) with Eugene Domingo, nominee for best actress in the coming "Asian Oscars" that Garcia's group is also hosting.

LAUREL Sotto and Tonyboy Cojuangco: "We need to focus."

Boycott calls fail to ruffle fest execs

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS-director Laurice Guillen-Sotto believes young filmmaker Cameron Reyes was provoked into sending negative words to the disqualification of his film, "MNL 143," in this year's Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival.

Cinemalaya has found "MNL 143" from competing in the New Breed category due to a scoring disagreement with its director and producer. Reyes and his supporters aired indignant reactions through social networking sites, saying that the filmmaker's right to choose his method been trampled on.

Sotto said the vote had "by the online attacks heaped on Cinemalaya, at a press conference on Tuesday, she said. "I have two questions: Is it true that young filmmakers, after making their first films, turn into monsters? Second, where are the filmmakers that Cinemalaya has helped and why have they kept quiet about this?"

She said her conversation with Reyes prior to the disqualification was "very cordial. I just gave him some scoring pointers. A week later, he tones reverted to the original text." Reyes replied on sending Alan Poole and Joy Viola, festival monitoring head Rikki Tan allegedly portrayed Vince Tañ and Princess Punzalan.

Rude views

"If you're a partner, you should be open to suggestions," Sotto said. "And in a competition like this, with a great record, you should be flexible, without sacrificing integrity."

She revealed that "MNL 143" producer Sonico Abregana himself had sought a formal disqualification into

"Mongrana just sent me a text—that was rude—asking for a disqualification letter," said Sotto. It was the first time in the festival's capital history, she pointed out. "I saved [his] text message," Reyes said.

On his Facebook account, Abregana responded to Sotto on Wednesday: "We asked... because you [had] already decided to disqualify us... We didn't want to be disqualified."

Unperturbed

At the press con, Cinemalaya Foundation chair Tonyboy Cojuangco said he was not perturbed by some calls to boycott Cinemalaya.

"If Cinemalaya continues to churn out good movies, no amount of attacks will [discredit it]," Cojuangco stressed. "We just have to focus on what we are doing."

Veteran director Joel Lamangan, a finalist in the Directors' Showcase category this year, said he was disappointed when people posted criticisms online instead of initiating a dialogue.

"If we really love cinema ... we shouldn't be concerned with personal gains but with the bigger picture," he said. "Let's stick to the real issue."

"Hilot" director Loy Arcenas, who is competing in the New Breed category, also appealed for the parties to "sit down and talk."

Meanwhile, a petition has been launched on the social action platform change.org calling for action in Cinemalaya's operations and for Sotto, Tan and festival director Nes Jardin, to resign.

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Some human distractions in a 'heavenly' teleserye

AFTER an extended hiatus, the hit teen team of Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera is back on TV via the new "heavenly" teleserye, "My Beloved."

The series is billed as "All for one" because it has a super- or supernatural element. Dingdong plays an angel. Of course, he's no cute little cherub with tiny wings and playful Cupid's bow and arrows, but a tall, buff and golden presence—with long tresses, to boot.

The series premiered recently and spent much of its running time luring our the backstory. The opening sequence was really compelling—a multivehicle car wreck that included a passenger bus. After that literally slam-bang beginning, the series deepened the set fate of two young girls who were made to believe that their mother had run off with a lover, and whose father soon expired from a gunshot wound.

Now all alone in the world, the girls were taken in by a kind aunt—who turned out to be the exact opposite, a mean stepsister of child torture, etc.

Flash-forward some 10 years later, and the series, the older one now played by Marian (who younger one by Jemima Jimenez), are still being oppressed by their supposed benefactress. But it turns out that they've been watched over all this time by the half angel played by Dingdong.

The first relevant ended with Marian about to be raped by a upward suitor, and the angel hovering into view just in the nick of time.

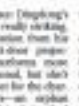
VENTRILOQUIST

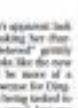
Nestor U. Torre

One initial issue: Dingdong's "angelic" look is really striking, a welcome deviation from his usual, hunk-next-door projection. Marian performs more naturally than usual, but she's too soft and meaner for the chesty role she plays—an orphan who's been exploited, terrified and made to work really hard for years and years.

Dingdong's showcase

When will Marian realize that curly suits unsigned to her fine fit own specific requirements, and that she can't simply play variations on her "right-out" screen persona from an





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MR LUCY Torres-Gomez — FORMER newsbeats Richard Gomez and Dina Bonnevie

Goma praying for two more kids; wife Lucy wants four

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTOR Richard Gomez said his preoccupation with his new property in Subic—initiated by his wife, Lucy, ex-Imelda Rep. Lucy Torres—has kept him from signing on exclusive contract with a TV network.

"I can't be tied down to a long-term, exclusive contract. The work in Ormoc demands so much time," Richard told Inquirer Entertainment. "We have projects to plan and implement. In fact, I fly to the province every other week."

Richard hosts a reality program, "The Biggest Loser Ako Na 'To," on the World-wide" on TV5 and is in the cast of the docu-series "Walang Hanggang" on ABS-CBN.

Richard, who ran for Congress in 2006 but was disqualified for failing to meet the residency requirement, was replaced by wife Lucy, who won as a candidate of the Liberal Party.

"When people ask me what kind of work I'm going to do when my term is over, I tell them I'm open to anything. I'm willing to serve in government, you just go for it."

The actor said he and Lucy met on Orthodox Christmas Day in 2008 but were introduced to each other by mutual friends only in January 2009. "We're already very good friends," Richard said. "Now that we're working together, our friendship has been reinforced."

Richard and Rep. are very comfortable being romantic in public, so pictures of the two of them kissing have circulated on the Internet.

Rep. Lucy has two children from her first husband, Congressman Arnulfo Fuentebella of Camarines Sur, namely Mico and Isabel.

Girlfriends

He said Lucy didn't mind his working with many women. "They're good friends. Lucy has seen my film with Dawn, Whitehouse this or Lorna, over 20 times," he pointed out. "It was Lucy who sent a text message to Dawn to say I had agreed to do 'Walang Hanggang.'"

("Walang Hanggang," which also features Cesar Montano, Julia Montes, Sarah Geronimo and Helen Gamboa, airs weeknights after "Ehap" on ABS-CBN's Primetime block. See also.)

E-mail me at rcruz@inquirer.com.ph

HEARD

AXE Hanes Cutolo on Twitter: "I love cops and crime movies. Since Monday is March 12 grade school. I watch all the 'Dills,' 'Criminal Minds,' 'Law,' etc. Dills 'The Closer,' too. I'm also hooked on the series 'Haven' & 'Alias.'"

ENTERTAINMENT

DID YOU KNOW...

'CSI' writer to give workshop

AARON Thomas, a writer/producer involved in US hit TV shows "CSI:NY," "Friday Night Lights," and "Numbers" will give a two-day workshop on writing the one-hour television drama.

The workshop will cover the basics of writing the TV narrative and the process of professional TV writing in Hollywood. It will be held 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 26 and 27 at the main amphitheater of the Ateneo Professional Schools in Rockwell, Makati. For workshop fees and more information, visit http://ateneo.me/TVWorkshopManila.

Put an end to bill nightmares with the Sun anti-bill shock plans

Businesses are not always happy, as there are some kinds of surprises that you wish never happens. Take for instance those seemingly weightless mails like billing statements. Some people have experienced the most shocking moments of their lives upon reading total amount due.

Pinatubing artist from Dasmariñas Perez, a post-Ampil stay-at-home mom, described the day she received her unusually large bill for her utilities. "I had to skim a part of my grocery budget just to settle that bill," she remarks.

For supposedly-cost-free Express like Jeff Archanta's who diligently saves for his solo school fees, unexpected increases in expenses were disappointing. "We didn't get any advice there will be an increase in the bottom line. It was a 20-percent increment and it was crucial!"

Meanwhile, our readers can relate to the experience of Michelle Belarde, a manager for an outsourcing company. Texas realty preached when our car insurance agent gave us the compulsion for a complete-feature insurance. Good thing they allowed us to pay in six monthly installments. Still, we need to pay almost the same amount each year."

Imagine getting billed over P10,000 for a month's mobile phone usage. "It was a dreadful moment because for many years I was only paying a monthly subscription fee, then all of a sudden and in just one month, the figure surprisingly multiplied!" said housewife Richie Dela. After this, she switched to prepaid service.

Painstakingly budgeting for her school and daily needs, student Angela Herrera is shocked at the exorbitant prices of commodities and services. "When I go to the bookstore to buy materials for projects or books, I wonder if there's what I see? When I eat, I wonder how value meals from chains who are actually no longer 'value-for-money' offerings."

For those who find their monthly bills regularly going up, these rates could serve as a solution. In case of phone bills, for instance, there are miscellaneous hours of phone or Internet usage that go beyond limit. Whatever the case, there is a need to protect one's self from these shocker bills.

Good thing there's Sun Cellular's Sun Anti-Shock (SA) Plans (ARS) comprises of three unbeatable postpaid offerings. Each plan starts with a monthly rate six months subscription passwords and of Sun's "Unlimited" features. These plans come with the "anti-shock cap," which sets a three months fee for those who have an random their anti-shock usage limit.

For Internet users, there's the Sun Anti-Bill Shock Data Plan. Enjoy 60 hours of broadband Internet use with up to 3.6 mbps speed for only P350 a month and enjoy unlimited P4/per additional hour, or a fixed minimum payment of P999 upon exceeding 120 hours in more. Or for internet on your mobile, enjoy 20 hours for only P149 a month, while having that peace of mind not to pay over P5000 in excess surfing.

For heavy texters, the Sun Anti-Shock Text All Plan is heaven-sent with 1,000 SMS to other networks by simply adding P199 per month to their existing bill/plan. The texters can enjoy the convenience of using only your Sun SIM to text any network at only 70 cents per SMS sent. Exceeding the monthly SMS limit is also no worry with its fixed add-on rate of only P4.80.

Landline phone subscribers save more and enjoy more landline access with Sun Anti-Bill Shock Mobile Landline Plan. Enjoy unlimited local landline calls for only P399/per month.

These bill shockers give total subscriber protection - from optimum usage to worry-free payments - a real Anti-Shock protection that every postpaid subscriber needs for their peace of mind. With these choices and innovative features, there's surely a Sun Anti-Bill Shock plan for everyone.

Want to know more about the SUN ABS Plans? Visit The Sun Shop outlets located nationwide or call Sun's Hotline 333 or 1020 using your Sun-powered mobile phone or (02) 395-3333 or (02) 395-8222 from any landline phones. Better yet, log on to www.sunbroadband.com.ph, visit Sun Facebook page www.facebook.com/sunbroadband and follow Sun Cellular on Twitter via www.twitter.com/sunbroadband.

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A GIPH — BY JEFF MIRON

PLUGGED BARDY — BY PAT LOUGHRY

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE-MOTS — BY ELIZABETH HOGWOOD

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

RUBE MACHINE — BY TYMOO ABRON

DEFI — BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DILBERT — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TUNDRA — BY IVAN COLI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Be extra patient when dealing with someone today. Accept people for who they are, and don't try to change them. Your compassion and generosity will work to the advantage of everyone. Wait!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Do your best to unearth your true feelings about a situation today. Don't be afraid to express your views, even if they're controversial. Be open to new ideas and opportunities, and you could learn and grow tremendously.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Don't rush into judgment regarding a matter today. Gather all the facts before you make a decision. Consider your options carefully, and don't be afraid to ask for advice from someone you trust. Be patient with others' shortcomings today. Tolerance will be a key. Romance will be in the air. Oh dear.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Someone may be in need of your help today. Be sensitive and understanding. Be patient with others' shortcomings today. Tolerance will be a key. Romance will be in the air. Oh dear.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Today, you may be in the mood for a change. Don't be afraid to take a risk or try something new. Be open to new ideas and opportunities, and you could learn and grow tremendously. Wait!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Today, you may be in the mood for a change. Don't be afraid to take a risk or try something new. Be open to new ideas and opportunities, and you could learn and grow tremendously. Wait!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Today, you may be in the mood for a change. Don't be afraid to take a risk or try something new. Be open to new ideas and opportunities, and you could learn and grow tremendously. Wait!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Today, you may be in the mood for a change. Don't be afraid to take a risk or try something new. Be open to new ideas and opportunities, and you could learn and grow tremendously. Wait!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Disagreements with others may crop up today. Be patient and understanding. Don't be afraid to express your views, even if they're controversial. Be open to new ideas and opportunities, and you could learn and grow tremendously. Wait!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) It's a good day to get organized. Clear out clutter, and make room for new things. Don't be afraid to express your views, even if they're controversial. Be open to new ideas and opportunities, and you could learn and grow tremendously. Wait!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You're a natural-born leader. Don't be afraid to express your views, even if they're controversial. Be open to new ideas and opportunities, and you could learn and grow tremendously. Wait!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Don't be afraid to express your views, even if they're controversial. Be open to new ideas and opportunities, and you could learn and grow tremendously. Wait!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more puzzles and programs see www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

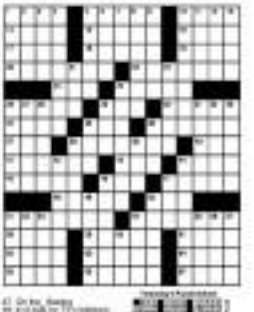
8	4	9	1	3	6	2	5	7
7	1	5	9	2	4	8	6	3
6	2	3	8	5	7	9	1	4
2	6	4	7	1	3	5	9	8
1	5	8	6	9	2	4	7	3
9	3	7	4	8	5	1	2	6
3	8	6	2	4	9	7	3	5
4	9	1	5	7	8	3	4	2
5	7	2	3	6	1	6	8	9

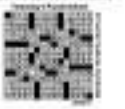
Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

	3	6	2					
						4		
		9			8			7
			4			7		8
2				8				9
6		1			5			
8			5			1		
	9							
					3	5	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





What Budoy taught Gerald

GERALD Anderson shed weight, grew his hair and wore loose extensions and false teeth for his role in Mike Cliffs "Budoy," wielding up some. Gerald, 22, says he discovered things about himself while playing Budoy.

"That God put me here to help others, for one thing," he said during the launch of his new endorsement, JolliJob's burger steak meal, in SM Mega.

GERALD Anderson

read: 'I hope to launch a big charity event this year.'

What did this role teach you about special children?

Not to pity them. They're just different, and we should appreciate that.

Did you ever make fun of people like Budoy?

Never.

Have you tried to help special children?

I recently gave a cash donation to a school in Montalban, Rizal, where I did my immersion for the role.

How you always are portrayed with the disabled?

I always wanted to help but didn't know how. Now I do. —Marinel R. Cruz

COCO Martin

If you don't see him on Facebook, here's why

ASKED INTRIGUING actor Coco Martin says social networking sites distract him from work.

"I avoid using Twitter and Facebook," Coco told Inquirer. "I'm a very sensitive person. I'm worried about receiving action negative comments about me or my work."

But the actor has come to terms with controversies as part of show biz. "I just ignore them." —Marinel R. Cruz

NEWPORT CINEMAS
DEVIL INSIDE
JOHN CARTER in 3D
JOHN CARTER
MONEYBALL in 2D
JOHN CARTER
UNOFFICIALLY YOURS
THIS MEANS WAR

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
JOHN CARTER
JOHN CARTER

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People
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R-13

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PROMENADE

THE MOST-ANTICIPATED MOVIE OF THE YEAR
THE HUNGER GAMES

- Voted by MTV, Entertainment Weekly and fans worldwide on "The Most Anticipated Movie of 2012" ahead of 'Breaking Dawn Part 2, 'Batman: The Dark Knight Rises' and 'The Hobbit'. Source: MTV.com
- Online ticketing site Fandango reports that the Advance Ticket sales of Hunger Games that started Wednesday (Feb. 22) broke all sales records in their 12-year history, toppling blockbuster movies like 'Iron Man', 'Transformers' and beating record holder 'The Twilight Saga: Eclipse' to become #1 Top Seller. Source: Yahoo! Finance
- The Hunger Games books were completely sold out for months at various book stores nationwide. Source: National Bookstore, Fully Booked and Power Books
- Analyst Matthew Harrigan of Wunderlich Securities says "Hunger Games could become the biggest movie of the year and may gross more than 9000 million worldwide". Harrigan recommends buying Lionsgate stock. Source: Bloomberg
- The Hunger Games will open above the first Twilight (800.8 million in three days), and should have one of the best launches ever in March. Source: Box Office Mojo

How Armie Hammer kept his chest hair

LOS ANGELES—He goes to bed (Julia Roberts' face) and keeps his chest hair in "Mirror, Mirror." He has the title role in a movie with Johnny Depp, "The Lone Ranger." He is married to the woman he knew he wanted to spend the rest of his life with, the first time he saw her.

There are good times to be Armie Hammer. And he knows how to give a reporter lots of fun to an interviewer. That's because Armie is, like George Clooney, a genuinely nice guy with a great sense of humor.

He started out the interview in Santa Monica's Gaa del Mar sporting longish hair. "Not my choice," he said, flashing that Prince Charming—until Snow shows—smile. "I would like to shave it off off." But for the Lone Ranger character (a.k.a. John Reid), which he has begun filming with director Gore Verbinski, standing at 6' 5", Armie makes us look like one of the dwarfs in the film.

The interview started on a funny note about Armie licking Julia's face. The humorous tone prevailed throughout the interview, thanks to the actor's candid, down-to-earth, joking manner in "Mirror, Mirror," directed by Tarsem Singh. Armie's Prince is given a "puppy love" potion by accident by Julia's evil queen (Lily Collins is Snow White with Sean Bean as the King and Nathan Lane as the Queen's fumbling servant).

"It definitely felt awkward," Armie said, chuckling about acting like a puppy and slobbering all over the actress' face. "That was our first day of working together, our first scene. It was like, Well, let's get this over with. Really! Always? It took his character out and demonstrated a big wet lick. I It was just like a case to shoot you kind of thing."

Intimidated

Playing the puppy love scene, he said, was "a little bit easier because he and really had a baby dog, Archie, at the time. "The night before I filmed that scene, I thought, I'm going to give Archie a bath and just see what happens. I did and he ran all over it. He took his cologne out and demonstrated a big wet lick. I It was just like a case to shoot you kind of thing."

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He admired Julia immediately, acting with Julia. "But what can't please? On the front who have well and famous every single aspect of this business. Like she would say, 'What lens are you pointing on them?' When she leans the camera, she would go, 'Oh, okay so it would look better if I do this.' Or she'd ask, 'What light are you pointing up there?' Oh, okay, so it's better if I'm in this angle.' Everything she does, she's in control of. It was great to watch a true professional at work."

The conversation turned to his hairy chest as he hung up his shirt in one scene. "It's funny how there was actually a period on the set when it turned into a big debate because the original first was something like 'smooth and hairless,'" he said. "They were like, 'We have to shave your chest.' I was like, 'Wait a second...I spent 25 years growing this chest hair. I am not shaving. I refuse.' They said, 'You have to.' The line was, 'Hairless.' I said, 'Change the line.' Fortunately, they changed it."

Not easy

Armie stressed that he didn't want to be known as the guy who liked to take his shirt off. He said, "I remember in the beginning of the filming when Tarsem was like, 'Hey, do you want more abs/less sweat?' I was like, 'What? The idea was, this guy is a prince, not a guy who goes to the gym. He eats/drinks, maybe goes hunting and horseback riding and stuff like that. It doesn't make sense for that character in life, have three pecs and abs. Back then, they had to do a couple of incidents and cuts. It was a chance for me to go a little bit lazy. I got a little bigger and built like a modern guy for 'The Social Network.'"

Since the upside-down scene, he explained, "There's no easy way to do that. It's the seven. That was the longest days of filming for the whole movie. In 'The Lone Ranger,' I have another scene where I have to hang upside down. So soon as I read that in the script, I was like, Oh, no! They instantly went down and said, 'but we're attached to this crane. Then they pull you up. You can only be upside down for about two minutes before your face turns purple and all the blood goes to your head. Your eyes start to swell and your muscles get really big. They go, 'Okay, baby, him down.' It looks too weird. I must have been hauled up and down over 30 times."

We asked him for details on "The Lone Ranger" shoot and his gamely-obliged, "Johnny and I have not done any scenes together," Armie began. "We're doing a couple of camera tests together. We've finished the first week of principal photography. It's going so well, I'm so relieved. If it's like that for the next seven months, I'll be the luckiest and happiest dude in the entire universe. It has all been great—being in a Jerry Bruckheimer production, seeing how everything just flows on smoothly. And watching how Gore is in such capable control of everything, he's doing. And watching Johnny do his stuff... he's a genius."

Armie said he had looked forward to shooting with Johnny who plays an Amerindian Indian named Tonto. "Next week, we start doing the stuff between Johnny and me which is really what this movie is about," he said. "It takes place in a freezer room in the 1800s. More than anything, it will be a great, funny adventure, buddy comedy driven by the relationship between the Lone Ranger and Tonto. He's the one they get along over some things and then quibble about other things. They're like an old married couple."

On filling his footwear shoes, Armie, whose father Michael directed "Autumn" starred several businesses, including a film and TV company, said: "If you come from successful parents, grandparents or great grandparents, there are big shoes to fill. Fortunately, I just decided to try on a different pair. I tried to become an actor instead of going into business as I really did get to do it for myself. I guess I'm blazing my own trail. Nobody in the family was an actor so I'm experimenting. There are no shoes to fill. I get to go on my own adventure, which is exciting."

Armie admitted that his family was initially disappointed with his decision to pursue acting: "I decided that I was going to quit school and start studying acting. They weren't prepared for that. It wasn't until I had proven that I was passionate about it and that I was willing to work harder at it than anything else in my life ... that's when they approved of my decision."

Winning streak

So far, he has been on a winning streak—from playing the Winklevoss twins in David Fincher's "The Social Network," the romantic gay lover of the FM director in Clint Eastwood's "J. Edgar" to Gwyn's "The Lone Ranger."

"I am just lucky," Armie said. "I've been very fortunate to work with amazing directors. But of being a great director is surrounding yourself with a team of people who are all fanatics at what they do and love what they do. So I've been lucky to get into my great team to another. Starting with David Fincher it was like, where do you go from that one? He is one of the best directors. Then going to Clint Eastwood, a legend, and then Tarsem who is a visual genius, and Gore, who's kind, who just runs an incredible set."

The most remarkable anecdote that Armie recounted was how when he saw TV personality Elizabeth Chambers, he was certain that he had found his life partner. "I was told point blank by my agent that she was wearing the first time I saw her," he said, beaming. "She was wearing gladiator sandals, like jeans, a Fire City sweatshirt and golden hoop earrings. She had curly hair because it was raining. She just came off her run and I was like, yeah, that's the perfect woman."

Amazing trip

"I don't know if you can call it love at first sight," he clarified. "She had a boyfriend at the time so, respectfully, nothing happened. We became friends, which was a great way to know each other under no pretenses. I was still enamored with her, amazed that someone like her could exist."

He related, "It was after the presidential debates in 2008... I had a lot of people in my house to watch the debates. As everybody was leaving, I was like, 'Should you stick around?' We used to talk. I called her Elizabeth Chamberlain in the time because she was too much woman for one name. I said to her, 'Elizabeth Chambers, you have to sit down. We're going to talk. I'm going to be totally blunt.' She was like, 'Okay!' I said, 'I'm going to tell you what you have to do.'

"She had this look on her face like, you're going to what? I go, 'We're going to break up with your boyfriend because we're going to start dating.' Her mouth dropped all... what? I said, 'Look, I'm not saying you don't care about him. But there's obviously chemistry between the two of us. This is something we can't ignore. Do you want us to do this now so we end up at 60 years old, making chairs together, going, 'What an amazing trip the whole time?'"

E-mail the columnist at rmagsalin_INQ@yahoo.com; follow him at http://twitter.com/inquirerbuzz.

JULIA Roberts and Armie Hammer in "Mirror Mirror." On their first shooting day, he had to lick her face.

HEMMER with longish hair: "Not my choice."

Sensual spectacle an 'experiment'

The one-hour stunt-dance show 'Fuerza Bruta' is described as 'new theater mixed with real catharsis'

By Oliver M. Palomblot
Contributor

BORING their 25-minute technical rehearsal, the agile female performers of "Fuerza Bruta" presented a sultry number to a transparent pool, suspended several feet above the floor.

The scantily-clad quintet moved around in a tight choreography, splashing to the muted beats of tribal music and electronics, smiling unbeweaver as their captive audience just a few feet below the gradually lowering pool.

The sensual spectacle is a popular part of "Fuerza Bruta's" one-hour, stunt-dance show, according to artistic director and performer Juan Martin Fernandez Diaz.

No hair

The show debuted in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2005. It ran and grew eventually toured and seen in Sao Sao Paulo and Brazil, the United States, Germany, Mexico, Spain, and Brazil, among other countries. The nightly "Fuerza Bruta" (or Brute Force) at the Manila Hotel last runs until March 26 as part of Manila Bulletin's anniversary celebrations.

"All the cast members are from Argentina," Fernandez-Diaz said. "We have actors without fear of heights. Many of them are dancers and actors, too."

He described the show as a "unique experience ... now the actors mixed with real orchestra. It's an experience that people feel in their body ... When the audience leaves after the show, they feel the adrenaline."

One of the six female cast members is Jimena Alonso, who's appreciative of the ongoing "Fuerza" tour, and the chance to perform energetic numbers nightly. "Every show is different because people [are different]," she enthused. "The energy of the audience keeps us up. We don't feel tired; we just enjoy it."

A few weeks after its Philippine debut, "Fuerza Bruta" will down at happy, intimate venue in the Manila Hotel Tent, Promptly starting at 8 p.m., the show immediately introduced to audience as its interactive nature. Those were in seats because the various stages and set pieces moved around the area, pushed and pulled around by its crew members.

Seamless

A male "Fuerza" performer dressed in office-clothes trapped on an elevated treadmill. The machine was moved across the room, the running man's motionless accompanied by dimming lights, sprays of water, and a loud "gunshot" which "wounds" him.

Attention shifted to a wall, where two cable-suspended women, rattled amid bright pink lights and pulsating music. The two seamlessly and effortlessly, eventually "freed-fall gag" was joined by other performers, who ran and burst through "walls" with him.

Jaw-dropping

Another highlight was a number where five dynamic "Fuerza" actors danced on an odors elevated stage. They soon joined the audience on the floor, pairing spectators partner members to dance with them or let her in on the head with small Styrofoam blocks with confetti.

And, of course, there was the jaw-dropping pool segment, which finds some guests huddle for their cameras.

The hour-long "unique experiment" left many in the audience visibly giddy stepping on cushion-filled puddles and half-dancing to pounding music as they stepped out of the venue.

PERFORMERS in a transparent pool a few feet above the floor.

Iza in 'MMK'

IZA CALZADO finally fulfills her dream as she stars in "Maalaala Mo Kaya" which airs tomorrow night on ABS-CBN.

Iza portrays the role of Lira, a woman who gets involved in an unconventional affair with Egay (Jaypee Mariadel) through the latter's dying wife's wish.

Good witch

Toni Gonzaga takes on the role of a good witch in Wansapanataxim's "Witchy Witch" tomorrow night on ABS-CBN.

Last few episodes

"Bantay" stars Gerald Anderson, Jaya Montilla and Enrique Gil bid farewell to fans as it celebrates its Grand Sun/Tag or Old Shadows.

Don't miss "Bantay's" last few episodes every night of her "Walang Hanggan" on ABS-CBN.

'Tunay na Buhay'

Catch the story of eight-year-old Michaela Cruz and her mom Maribel, 36, who go to school together as first graders on GMA 7's "Tunay Na Buhay" tonight after "Sekret."

"TUNAY na Buhay"

TONI Gonzaga

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

YOUNG LADYBIRD FOR CITY MALE INMATES AND GIRLFRIENDS/
FEMALE INMATES FOR THE MONTHS OF APRIL-DECEMBER 2012

The Social Fitness and Mutual Fund, through the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB), invites all eligible contractors to apply for the Pre-Qualification, Bidding and Awarding of Contracts for the Procurement of Goods and Services for the Implementation of Phase I of the Project. The Project is for the construction of a 2-storey Social Fitness and Mutual Fund Building with a total floor area of 1,000 square meters.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to associations or cooperatives of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 as implemented by Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Social Fitness and Mutual Fund Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders starting March 12, 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (₱85,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Social Fitness & Mutual Fund will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on 16 March 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in its COA-I-a and PDAF Conference Room, Aztec Bldg. which shall be open only to prospective bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 30 March 2012 at 10:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stipulated in Section 27.

Bid opening and preliminary examination of bids shall be on 30 March 2012 at 10:01 a.m. and the bid evaluation on 31 March 2012 at the SFMF Conference Room, Aztec Bldg. Bidders or their authorized representatives who have submitted bids may attend the bid opening but only bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents are allowed to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Social Fitness & Mutual Fund reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to cancel the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to: Ms. Nora A. Dueñas or Ms. Joy P. Holgado

SAC Operation Office
Social Fitness and Mutual Fund
Nalaan del Norte

(Sgd.) ENGR. ROSTAN A. MARTIN, MBA (Sgd.) BENJAMIN V. PADILLA, MPA
SAC Chairperson SAC Chairperson

APPROVED:
(Sgd.) PDR SENARIO J. RAMOS
Penal Superintendent

(PN) - March 09, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
COLE-ADS Building, 807 Maligaya St.,
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
GLOBE TELECOM, INC. (3F Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer cor. Madison St., Mandaluyong City)	Joseph Paul Calvo (Filipino)	Consultant-Lead (3F)
GUANABANO RESTAURANT INC. (4th Quadrant Ave., BF Homes Paranaque City)	Sunmee Ahn (Korean)	General Manager
TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PHILIPPINES) INC. (10/F Asiapolitan Executive Tower, Ortigas cor. 20th St., Crescent Park West, E-Zone, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City)	Ravikanth Ashok Shirke (Indian)	Lean and Platform Technology Manager
TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PHILIPPINES) INC. (10/F Asiapolitan Executive Tower, Ortigas cor. 20th St., Crescent Park West, E-Zone, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City)	Anand Prabhakar Shetty (Indian)	Collective Consultant - SOL
TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PHILIPPINES) INC. (10/F Asiapolitan Executive Tower, Ortigas cor. 20th St., Crescent Park West, E-Zone, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City)	Raja Bhanu Desai (Indian)	Delivery Lead - ACS
JOON PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. (unit 2004 Jollibee Plaza Condominium, F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City)	Jongsung Kim (Korean)	President
HANSUNG PHILIPPINES, INC. (3/F Shell John Gotten Hedco Enterprise Special Area, Bgay of Dela Cruz Compound, Pasay City)	Jehan Kim (Singapore) (Indian)	Managing Director
PHOENIX HOME EXPRESS & PACKAGE TOURING (Unit Cebu Central Bldg., Don Mariano St. Mabolo, Manila)	Yeon Ho Jung (Korean)	Assistant Operation Manager
PACIFICA PHILIPPINES LENDING COMPANY, INC. (Rm. 401 MF Mezzanine Bldg., 1880 Quezon Ave. Diliman, Quezon City)	Mirzohasan Mukhtar Hussain (Bangladesh)	Team Member
YOUR CHOICE MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS CONSULTANCY INC. (Unit 1 Ground Floor, Eastwood Square, Eastwood City, Bagumbayan, Quezon City)	Jaehee Noh (Korean)	Marketing Staff
YOUR CHOICE MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS CONSULTANCY INC. (Unit 1 Ground Floor, Eastwood Square, Eastwood City, Bagumbayan, Quezon City)	Seokbae Yoon (Korean)	Core Marketing Staff
YOUR CHOICE MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS CONSULTANCY INC. (Unit 1 Ground Floor, Eastwood Square, Eastwood City, Bagumbayan, Quezon City)	Jihoon Park (Korean)	Supervisor
PACIFIC BEA BPO SERVICES INC. (3/F Northwright Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Phu Tran Nguyen (Vietnamese)	Data Analyst Officer
ANZ GLOBAL SERVICES AND OPERATIONS (MANILA), INC. (12/F Quad One Bldg., 139 Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Legaspi Village, Makati City)	Hanan Samadhi (Indian)	Manager - Information Protection
HEWLETT-PACKARD GF (H)WORKING LTD. - KOHS (12/F Philamlife Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Osamu Miyama (Japanese)	Technical Solutions Dept. 1
HEWLETT-PACKARD GF (H)WORKING LTD. - KOHS (12/F Philamlife Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Chikashi Aota (Japanese)	Technical Solutions Dept. 11
HEWLETT-PACKARD GF (H)WORKING LTD. - KOHS (12/F Philamlife Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Masashi Tamura (Japanese)	Technical Solutions Dept. 3
SAKURA TRAVEL CORPORATION (Unit 1702 Cityland 10 Tower II, 6817 Ayala Ave. Northern Side, Makati City, Salcedo Village, Makati City)	Hashitani Ito (Japanese)	Senior Manager - Japanese Division

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
SUNG JOO INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE SCHOOL CORP. (3F Rafael Palma Bldg., 1023 Makati Ave., Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City)	Ae Kyo Im (aka Ai Kim) (Korean)	Vice-Academic Officer
SPEAKING MIND CORP. (3/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Ayala Ave., Brgy. Bel-Air, Makati City)	Liwei Zhang (Chinese)	Sales Manager
UPLOAD GLOBAL LOGISTICS, INC. (Lot 2-C Acacia Road, Multinational Village, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Paranaque City)	Wharie Douglas Burt (Australian)	Managing Director
TRANSCOM, INC. PHILIPPINES (8F Asian One Bldg., 2900, 2906 cor. Arnaiz Avenue, Commercial Center, Makati City)	Jan Michael Bolanos Jr. (American)	Project Procurement Manager
FLUOR DANIEL, INC. - PHILIPPINES (8F Asian One Bldg., 2900, 2906 cor. Arnaiz Avenue, Commercial City, Makati City)	Manish Maheshri Patel (Indian)	Project Engineer
FIBERTAR INC. (2/F SM Pioneer Bldg., Pioneer cor. Edsa, Mandaluyong City)	Jungwon Kim (Korean)	Client Relation Managing Assistant Supervisor
ALLIED TRAVEL AND TOURS INC. (Unit PCX-30 Cosmo City, No. 8 Address at Fairco Mandaluyong, Ayala Avenue City)	Seung Hyeon (Japanese)	General Manager
TRANSCORE MARKETING GROUP INC. (Shangrila House, 1601 Doga St., San Antonio Village, Makati City)	Chuley Zhang (Chinese)	Consultant
DELTA MANAGEMENT LIMITED (3/F Intellectual Bldg., 40 Eastwood Ave. Eastwood City Bagumbayan, Quezon City)	Balaji Subramanian (Indian)	Senior Technical Associate
KIA / MT ALUMINUM GROUP (2/F E. Homtangco Bldg., 484 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City)	Xiaolu Wang (Chinese)	Consultant
CONSULTANT PHILIPPINES, INC. (2/F Asia World Building, 104 Kamias Rd. Quezon City, Western Bicutan, Taguig City)	Kan Michael Villasin (Canadian)	Service Desk Analyst
ELIMELEC SOLUTIONS INC. (10/F RCBC Plaza Tower II, Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Xiaozhu Yang (Chinese)	Web Design Team Leader
ELIMELEC SOLUTIONS INC. (10/F RCBC Plaza Tower II, Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Phan Son Tran (Vietnamese)	Payment and Compliance Officer
ELIMELEC SOLUTIONS INC. (10/F RCBC Plaza Tower II, Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Ing Chin Sen (Malaysian)	Operations Manager
ELIMELEC SOLUTIONS INC. (10/F RCBC Plaza Tower II, Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Shuquan Zheng (Chinese)	Customer Service Manager
ELIMELEC SOLUTIONS INC. (10/F RCBC Plaza Tower II, Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Wang-Ahu Khan (Vietnamese)	Customer Service Manager
ELIMELEC SOLUTIONS INC. (10/F RCBC Plaza Tower II, Ayala Ave., Makati City)	I-Chun Chen (Taiwanese)	Web Designer
CHO HAKUEN SEAFOOD & SHABUSEN RESTAURANT CORP. (3 Ermitanos St., Greenhills, San Juan City)	Ichiro Li (Chinese)	Chef
DE LA SALLE-LIPA PHILIPPINES, INC. (Tower 2 & Pro Nove Exchange Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Joseph Patrick Rumbo (Irish)	Director for Office Services
PACIFIC BEA BPO SERVICES INC. (3/F Northwright Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Rob Mercer (Malaysian)	Senior Data Analyst Executive
BLOOMBERG L.P. (G/F Bonifacio Stopover Corporate Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City)	Yonghong Hua (Chinese)	Research Associate in Chinese Language

If you have any information relative to the above mentioned applications, please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALAN M. MACARAEG
Regional Director

(PN) - March 9, 2012

"NURSES"

- NCLEX AHPRA APPROVAL
  - No IELTS Required
- NURSES with MIDWIFERY LICENSE
  - Must have minimum of 2 years experience in Hospital setting
- NURSES with or without EXPERIENCE
- Engineers, Teachers & others

We can assist you

FREE SEMINAR this coming March 10, 2012 @ 1pm

Venue:
VMC Visa & Migration Consultancy
Unit 2111 Cityland 10, Tower 2
H.V. Dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City

Email: apply.vmcmc@gmail.com
Phone: (02) 467 0047 or (02) 892 7215
Mobile: 0918 347 9130

Please book early to reserve seats.
We are not a recruitment agency.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

LOAN & MORTGAGE

HOUSE AND LOT

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

HOUSE & LOT

APARTMENT

LOT

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

CAR LOAN

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

OTHER EQUIPMENT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

RENEWAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO RENT

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WE HAVE MOVED!!!

The Philippine Daily Inquirer Iloilo office (Circulation Department & Classified Ads Manila branch) has transferred to Unit F202, Velco Centre Building, A.C. Delgado corner R.S. Oca Sts., South Harbour, Manila - near Bureau of Customs and Gate 4 of Philippine Ports Authority. You may call us at telephone number 528-4213, 523-8578 loc. 115/116 and at fax number 528-0234.

LOCATION MAP

COOPERATIVE INSURANCE SYSTEM OF THE PHILIPPINES

CISP Building, No. 80 Mother D. Aguinaldo Street, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 479 Kamuning Quezon
Telephone Nos. 924-3744 · 924-3988 · 924-3989
Telefax Nos. 924-3977 · 924-3977
Website: http://cisp.info.com · E-mail Address: cisp@cisp.info.com

SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT

As of December 31, 2009

ADMITTED ASSETS	2009
Bonds	₱ 1,615,010.91
Treasury Bills	3,536,450.00
Stocks	2,945,000.42
Real Estate	10,391,047.41
Premium Receivables	3,847,000.00
Security Fund	8,150.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks	18,000,000.00
CISP Equipment	8,10,727.00
Amount Receivables from Accounting Companies	1,545,000.00
Non-Admissible Premiums and Sundry Considerations	
Taxes and Dividends	3,000.00
Total Admitted Assets	₱ 54,211,186.33
LIABILITIES	
Aggregate Reserves for Life Policies and Contracts	₱ 3,000,987.00
Policy and Contract Claims	2,745,000.00
Liability for Premium Deposit Funds	227,234.00
Amounts Withheld by Accounting Companies	3,356,281.00
Accrued Expenses	427,000.00
Taxes Payable	54,000.00
Unearned Investment Income	1,000,000.00
Accounts Payable Payable	3,845,450.00
Other Liabilities	3,000,000.00
Total Liabilities	₱ 18,545,952.00
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Capital Stock Paid-up	₱ 10,000,000.00
Contingency Surplus	4,219,000.00
Contributed Surplus	56,775.00
Special Surplus Funds:	
Available Reserve - Stocks	200,000.00
Reserve for Education and Training	1,745,000.00
Revaluation Reserve - Real Estate	3,000,000.00
Appropriation for Land and Building	3,700,000.00
Working Fund	2,000,000.00
Retained Earnings	(40,235,540.67)
Total Stockholders' Equity	₱ 35,665,233.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES & STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	₱ 54,211,186.33

*Capital impairment subsequently covered up to list

(This Synopsis, prepared from the 2009 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commission, is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978 as amended.)

FIRST BUKIDNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Anahawan, Manolingi, Bukidnon
Tel. No. (088) 398-1025 loc 26
E-mail Ad: fbeco_inc_manolingi@yahoo.com.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The First Bukidnon Electric Cooperative, Inc. (FIBECO), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested bidders to bid for the supply and construction of the following MEA-Approved Barangay Line Enhancement Subsidy Projects in Turnkey basis:

No.	Barangay	Municipality	Province	Number of Lots			Approved Budget Cost	Completion Date Per Lot/s
				1 phase	2 ph	3 ph		
1	Lumbayao	Quezon	Bukidnon	2.000	1.750	1.250	1,750,000.00	30 days
2	Kalabugao	Quezon	Bukidnon	2.000	1.750	1.250	1,750,000.00	30 days
3	Pigtauan	Quezon	Bukidnon	3.440	1.750	1.250	1,750,000.00	30 days
4	Alanib	Quezon	Bukidnon	10.000	1.000	1.250	1,000,000.00	30 days
5	Alae Dagumbaan	Quezon	Bukidnon	3.000	1.000	1.250	1,000,000.00	30 days
6	Pangayan	Quezon	Bukidnon	10.000	1.000	1.250	1,000,000.00	30 days
7	Kibaan	Quezon	Bukidnon	7.000	1.000	1.250	1,000,000.00	30 days
8	Lilo	Quezon	Bukidnon	3.000	1.000	1.250	1,000,000.00	30 days
9	Mt. Kitanglad	Quezon	Bukidnon	3.000	1.000	1.250	1,000,000.00	30 days
Total				10.000	10.000	10.000	10,000,000.00	

Interested party shall have the option to bid on the schedule above and may obtain Bid Documents and further information from the office of the BAC Secretariat from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm starting March 9, 2012 upon submission of Letter of Intent. Pre-Bidding Conference is set on March 15, 2012 at 9:00 am at FIBECO Main Office, Anahawan, Manolingi, Bukidnon. Eligibility Documents, Technical Proposals and Financial Proposals shall be properly segmented, duly marked as such, and submitted to the BAC Secretariat on or before 9:00 A.M. of March 28, 2012.

Opening of Bids and Pre-Qualification evaluation shall be conducted at 9:00 A.M. on March 28, 2012 at FIBECO Function Hall, Anahawan, Manolingi, Bukidnon.

FIBECO reserves the right to reject any proposals, to waive any minor defects or informities therein, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding, or not to award the contract in any of the situations pursuant to the procurement policy and or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to FIBECO.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ANTONIO M. OBICE, JR.**
BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) **ENGR. RENATO S. CORTEZIANO**
General Manager

(PR-No. 1.1.1.1.1.1)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

Head Office-Makati
Trunkline 897-0808
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(02) 910-7946,
555-7194
Telefax
(02) 553-6099

Cubao, Quezon City Branch
433-0343
433-1438
Fax 912-9018

MR Reginald, Mandaluyong Branch
535-9218
687-1264
Fax 538-0218

South Harbour, Manila Branch
Direct Line
528-0013
Trunkline 523-5278
loc. 123 or 126
Fax 528-0234

PROVINCE OF SAMBOANGA DEL SUR

(3RD) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Samboanga del Sur, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to submit bids/proposals for the following:

Name of Project	Description
Location	
Approved Budget for the Contract	
Source of Funds	
Contract Duration	
Date of Availability of Bidding Documents	
Pre-bid Conference	
Deadline for Submission and Receipt of Bids	
Date, Time and Venue of Opening of Bids	

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract to be undertaken, a Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where their principal place of business is located, and Tax Clearance per Executive Order 398, Series of 2005. For this purpose, they must submit the following documents during the Eligibility Screening scheduled for the submission of the contract. The BAC will not entertain late applications. Interested bidders may secure the Bidding Documents at the Provincial Government Compound, Capitol Site, Pagadian City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ₱5,000.00.

All qualified bidders are invited to attend the Pre-bidding Conference on the date and time indicated above at the Provincial Government Compound, Capitol Site, Pagadian City.

The BAC will open the bids in the presence of the bidders or their duly authorized representatives on the date and time indicated above at the Provincial Government Compound, Capitol Site, Pagadian City. Bids received after the deadline will be rejected.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any minor defects therein, to declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in any of the situations pursuant to the procurement policy and/or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Province.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ANTHONY FREDERICK S. HAGONOY**
Provincial Administrator
BAC Chairman

(PR-No. 1.1.1.1.1.1)

PROVINCE OF SAMBOANGA DEL SUR

(3RD) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Samboanga del Sur, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to submit bids/proposals for the following:

Name of Project	Rehabilitation/Improvement of Provincial Capitol Site, Phase I
Location	Brgy. Capitol Site, Pagadian City
Approved Budget for the Contract	₱50,000,000.00
Source of Funds	Provincial Development Fund
Contract Duration	180 Calendar Days
Date of Availability of Bidding Documents	March 9, 2012
Pre-bid Conference	March 15, 2012 @ 10:00 AM
Deadline for Submission and Receipt of Bids	March 27, 2012 @ 9:00 AM
Date, Time and Venue of Opening of Bids	March 27, 2012 @ 10:00 AM, Provincial Capitol Building, Pagadian City

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract to be undertaken, a Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where their principal place of business is located, and Tax Clearance per Executive Order 398, Series of 2005. For this purpose, they must submit the following documents during the Eligibility Screening scheduled for the submission of the contract. The BAC will not entertain late applications. Interested bidders may secure the Bidding Documents at the Provincial Government Compound, Capitol Site, Pagadian City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ₱5,000.00.

All qualified bidders are invited to attend the Pre-bidding Conference on the date and time indicated above at the Provincial Government Compound, Capitol Site, Pagadian City.

The BAC will open the bids in the presence of the bidders or their duly authorized representatives on the date and time indicated above at the Provincial Government Compound, Capitol Site, Pagadian City. Bids received after the deadline will be rejected.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any minor defects therein, to declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in any of the situations pursuant to the procurement policy and/or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Province.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ANTHONY FREDERICK S. HAGONOY**
Provincial Administrator
BAC Chairman

(PR-No. 1.1.1.1.1.1)

PROVINCE OF SAMBOANGA DEL SUR

(3RD) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Samboanga del Sur, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to submit bids/proposals for the following:

Name of Project	**Procurement of Drugs and Medicines**
Approved Budget for the Contract	Php 4,000,000.00
Source of Funds	Provincial Development Fund
Contract Duration	Within the Calendar Year 2012
Date of Availability of Bidding Documents	March 9, 2012
Pre-bid Conference	March 15, 2012 @ 10:00 AM, Provincial Capitol Building, Pagadian City
Deadline for Submission and Receipt of Bids	March 27, 2012 @ 9:00 AM
Date, Time and Venue of Opening of Bids	March 27, 2012 @ 10:00 AM, Provincial Capitol Building, Pagadian City
Prospective Opening of Bids	March 28, 2012 @ 9:00 AM

All qualified bidders should have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and it must be submitted during the Eligibility Screening scheduled for the submission of the contract. The BAC will open the bids in the presence of the bidders or their duly authorized representatives on the date and time indicated above at the Provincial Government Compound, Capitol Site, Pagadian City. Bids received after the deadline will be rejected.

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Date	Venue
Pre-Procurement Conference	March 1, 2012 @ 2:00PM	2nd Floor BAC Conference Room, Capitol Building, Pagadian City (TB)
Advertisement/Posting of IRRB	March 9, 2012	Bids Boards
Receipt and Sale of Bidding Documents	March 9, 2012	BAC Office, Ground Floor, Capitol Building, Pagadian City
Issuance of Bidding Documents	March 9, 2012	BAC Office, Ground Floor, Capitol Building, Pagadian City
Pre-Bid Conference	March 15, 2012 @ 10:00AM	2nd Floor BAC Conference Room, Capitol Building, Pagadian City (TB)
Submission and Opening of Bids	March 27, 2012 @ 9:00AM	2nd Floor BAC Conference Room, Capitol Building, Pagadian City (TB)
Postponed Opening of Bids	March 28, 2012 @ 9:00AM	2nd Floor BAC Conference Room, Capitol Building, Pagadian City (TB)

The BAC will issue a prospective bidders Checklist of Eligibility Requirements at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol Bldg., Pagadian City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and a non-refundable fee of ₱5,000.00 payable to the collecting / disbursing officer of the Provincial Government. The BAC will conduct a Pre-Bidding Conference on March 15, 2012 @ 9:00am in Bidders to clarify matters relative to the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same time.

The BAC will open the bids in the presence of the bidders or their duly authorized representatives on the date and time indicated above at the Provincial Government Compound, Capitol Site, Pagadian City. Bids received after the deadline will be rejected.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any minor defects therein, to declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in any of the situations pursuant to the procurement policy and/or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Province.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ANTHONY FREDERICK S. HAGONOY**
Provincial Administrator
BAC Chairman

(PR-No. 1.1.1.1.1.1)

SOUTHERN LEYTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Sto. Niño, Maasin City, Southern Leyte
Tel. # (053) 381-2144 · Telefax # (053) 570-8625

INVITATION TO A BID

SOUTHERN LEYTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (SOLECO) invites interested parties to SUPPLY & DELIVER the Coop's Line Hardware Materials, Conductor Wires, Transformer/Digital Kwh Meters & Lineman's Tools for the Coop's Year 2012 – Operation & Maintenance Requirement & Projects Period of 5 Phase Distribution Lines for Lindasakan & Hinunangan Lgu Upgrade Line, Canal -of- re-conning 69kV Line for Sogod & St. Bernard Substations.

Eligible bidders may obtain information and secure bidding documents from SOLECO main office at Sto. Niño, Maasin City, Southern Leyte upon payment of a non-refundable bidders fee of Three Thousand Pesos (₱3,000.00).

Sealed proposals in two copies and accompanied by a Bid Bond of Five percent (5%) of bid price will be received by SOLECO at 8am-5pm, Maasin City on or before 10:00 AM on March 12, 2012 at which time and place the bids will be opened in the presence of bidders and/or authorized representatives.

SOLECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality in the bids received or to accept bids as may be advantageous and responsive to the needs of this office. For more details, call (053) 381-2144, (053) 570-8625.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PR – March 9, 2012)

FIRST BUKIDNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Anahawan, Manolingi, Bukidnon
Tel. No. (088) 398-1025 / Telefax No. (088) 398-1026

INVITATION TO BID

The First Bukidnon Electric Cooperative, Inc. (FIBECO) with office address at Brgy Anahawan, Manolingi, Bukidnon invites qualified Suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit its bid/quote for the following:

SUBMETER: 1-phase Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) capable 10(60) Ampere single phase kilowatt-hour meter, socket connected, 5 electronic kwh/kvh, no demand type, 100 – 240 v, short voltage, with reading device – **10,000 units**

Interested parties may obtain Bid Documents and further information from the office of the BAC Secretariat from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm starting March 9, 2012. Pre-bidding Conference is scheduled at 1 P.M. on March 15, 2012 at the aforementioned area.

Eligibility Documents, Technical Proposals and Financial Proposals shall be properly segmented, duly marked as such, and submitted to the BAC Secretariat on or before 1:00 PM of March 28, 2012.

Opening of Bids and Pre-qualification evaluation shall be conducted at 1:00 P.M. on March 28, 2012.

FIBECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason to waive any minor defects or informalities therein and to accept any or all offers or proposals as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the cooperative. It may declare no award, postpone or cancel the bidding process at any time that may be incurred by bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ANTONIO M. OBICE, JR.**
BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) **ENGR. RENATO S. CORTEZIANO**
General Manager

(PR-No. 1.1.1.1.1.1)

SULTAN KUDARAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat
"Your Companion in Life's Positive Movement"

INVITATION TO BID

The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites potential and accredited bidders to apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the **Supply of Labor and Materials for the Wire Route Construction Projects with the Approved Budget Cost of ₱[illegible]**.

Details will be discussed during a **pre-bid and orientation** Pre-Bid Conference on March 12, 2012, 2:00 P.M. at the SUKELCO Board Room. Bidding Proper shall be on March 13, 2012, 10:00 A.M. at the SUKELCO Board Room.

For interested suppliers/contractors pre-accreditation, SUKELCO's complete list of requirements for accreditation from Atty. L. Pawilanan, All bids submitted must be accompanied with a bid bond/s, in cash or cheque in the amount equivalent to 2% of the bid price/s. Bidding documents are completed in conference. For further inquiries, please contact Engr. Generoso Dalmacion at [illegible] or email bac@sukelco-coop.ph.

SUKELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or informalities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the cooperative.

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **EDGAR M. SATMARIN**
BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) **DOMETRIO D. JEREZ, PEE**
General Manager

(PR – March 9, 2012)

MAY TRABAHO DITO You can now checkout more jobs in INQUIRER Libre

Request for Interested Parties for Gas Station Operator in GGLC

Project Location

Located within Clark Freeport Zone, 2.7 kilometers known as Global Gateway Logistics City, Sta. Ines Road 2, Industrial Lands 3, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines 2023

Project Name

Gas Plaza – Gas Station Operator

Project Description

GGLC is the country's first Aerotropolis located at the main interchange to Clark Freeport Zone off the SCTEX toll road. Adjacent to this country's largest and fastest growing airport, GGLC is a fully integrated and world-oriented logistics/business park catering to a 'live-work-play-business' dynamic. The Gas Plaza will be the first commercial development within GGLC and is located at the first intersection off the SCTEX, providing access to 100% of all traffic entering or exit off the SCTEX Clark South exit.

Approximately 1.2 hectares of land, the Gas Plaza will be a high-end mall/commercial outlet providing convenience and destination shopping and commercial office space. Situated along a major thoroughfare this Gas Station is comprised of 1,000 sqm and is supported by 21,000 sqm of retail space for branded concessionaires with complimenting office space.

In addition to serving routine traffic, the Gas Operator will also provide all GGLC project fuel requirements estimated in excess of 600,000 liters annually.

Interested parties may submit their proposals to the attention of:

John Doakes
Business Development Manager
Hungarian Development International Inc.
0000 000 0000
jdoakes@yahoo.com

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. DC2012-02-0003

SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES ON THE TRANSPARENT AND COMPETITIVE SYSTEM OF AWARDING SERVICE AND OPERATING CONTRACTS FOR PETROLEUM AND COAL PROSPECTIVE AREAS

WHEREAS, on 21 December 2011, Department Circular No. DC2011-12-0015 entitled "ESTABLISHING A TRANSPARENT AND COMPETITIVE SYSTEM OF AWARDING SERVICE AND OPERATING CONTRACTS FOR PETROLEUM AND COAL PROSPECTIVE AREAS, REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NOS. DC2008-06-0004 AND DC2010-02-0005" (the "PECR/A Guidelines") was promulgated by the Department of Energy (DOE) providing for the framework of submission and evaluation of proposals for coal and petroleum exploration, development and utilization;

WHEREAS, interested proponents requested the extension of the timelines for submission of pre-qualification documents and proposals, and clarification of certain provisions in the PECR/A Guidelines;

WHEREAS, some offered coal contract areas were found to be too large to reasonably complete exploration work within the required two (2) to four (4)-years exploration period and would require substantial financial commitment which will limit participation;

WHEREAS, in order to guarantee greater participation of interested proponents and to further ensure the transparent and competitive nature of submission and evaluation of proposals, there is a need to extend the timelines for submission, subdivide the petroleum offered areas, provide additional guidelines and clarify certain provisions in the PECR/A Guidelines;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the aforementioned premises, the following supplemental guidelines shall govern the transparent and competitive system of awarding service and operating contracts for petroleum and coal exploration, development and production:

Section 1. Annex B-1 (Timelines for Conduct of the PECR/A Guidelines) is hereby amended as follows:

DATE	ACTIVITY
29 February 2012	*Last Day of submission of Pre-qualification documents*
30 March 2012	*Last Day of submission of proposals* *(11:30 AM Philippine Time)* *Opening of proposals* *(1:30 PM Philippine Time)*

Section 2. Section 4.1 of the PECR/A Guidelines is hereby amended as follows:

"4.1 to 4.3 Submission of PECR/A Applications

*** *** ***

Payment of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php. 10,000.00) as one-time pre-qualification review fee, net of all applicable bank and financial charges."

Section 3. Financial Statements. Audited financial statements and other financial requirements, if executed abroad, shall be duly authenticated by the Philippine Consulate in the country where it is registered or where it operates.

Section 4. Maximum Area for Coal. No person shall be entitled to more than fifteen-15 blocks of coal lands in any one coal region pursuant to Section 6, Presidential Decree No. 972, as amended.

Section 5. Amended and Additional Areas Offered for Coal.

Contract Areas for coal shall be executed as follows:

5.1 Area 18 Balig & Lingig, Surigao del Sur is sub-divided into three (3) areas, namely:

5.1a Area 18-A (GB Nos. 461-L-246, -260-A, -260)
5.1b Area 18-B (GB Nos. 461-L-261, -262, -262-A, -262) and
5.1c Area 18-C (GB Nos. 461-L-264 and 264-A, 263)

5.2 Area 19 is sub-divided into two (2) areas, namely:

5.2a Area 19-A (GB Nos. 461-L-255, -251, -270 & -271); and
5.2b Area 19-B (GB Nos. 461-L-252, -250 & -269).

5.3 Area 24 is sub-divided into two (2) areas, namely:

5.3a Area 24-A (GB Nos. 46-J-142, -143, -162, -162 & -164); and
5.3b Area 24-B (GB Nos. 46-J-124, -123 & -163).

5.4 Area 25 is sub-divided into two (2) areas, namely:

5.4a Area 25-A (GB Nos. 46-J-109, -102, -099 & -098); and
5.4b Area 25-B (GB Nos. 46-J-141, -140, -141-A, -143 & -164.)

5.5 Area 29 is sub-divided into two (2) areas, namely:

5.5a Area 29-A (GB Nos. 41-H-34, -74 & -75); and
5.5b Area 29-B (GB Nos. 41-H-96, -76, -114, -115 & -116).

5.6 Area 30 is sub-divided into two areas, namely:

5.6a Area 30-A (GB Nos. 41-H-35, -76, -75, -93 & 41-I-41); and
5.6b Area 30-B (GB Nos. 41-H-117, -118, -119, -120, -106, -107, -108 & -109).

5.7 An additional area is offered designated as Area 31Boracay, Cambanaga and Naba (GB Nos. 41-H-094, -132, -133, -134, -135, -175 & -176).

Submitted areas shall comprise as one (1) Contract Area. Any interested proponents shall submit proposals for each Contract Area.

Section 6. Track Record. Previous service/operating contract holders with cancelled service/operating contracts and/or outstanding obligations with the DOE are not eligible to join the PECR.

Section 7. Signature Bonus for Operating/Service Contract. The proposed signature bonus shall not be less than Fifty Thousand U. S. Dollars (US$ 50,000.00) for petroleum, and One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP 150,000.00) for coal. However, proponents may submit proposed signature bonus higher than the minimum amount.

Section 8. Recommendatory Permit to Be Used. Interested proponents may apply for non-exclusive reconnaissance permit valid until the deadline for submission of proposals.

Section 9. Exploration Work Programs. Only the exploration work program in the application for either petroleum service contract or coal operating contract that conforms to the exploration Work Program Documentation as required under the PECR/A Guidelines, shall be accepted.

Section 10. Separability Clause. If for any reason, any section or provisions of this Circular is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 11. Effectivity. This Circular shall take into effect immediately following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation and shall remain in effect until otherwise revoked.

Issued this _____ in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila.

JOSE RENE D. ALMENDRAS
Secretary

(PIA - March 06, 2012)

PHILCOMSAT HOLDINGS CORPORATION (PHC)
(formerly Liberty Wireless Inc.)

NOTICE to STOCKHOLDERS

To facilitate the reconstitution of our books and records, all stockholders are requested to submit/cause submission of their stock certificates for cancellation at the 15/F Telecom Plaza Building, 339 Gen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, or any store between Monday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please write your name, address and signature on the back of the certificate/s. Remember that original stock certificates, deeds of sale, or any other document evidencing title to shares.

Should you be unable to locate your original stock certificate, may be required you to submit an affidavit of loss, indicating the details of your shareholdings and how you acquired the same.

Should you be unable to visit our offices in Makati City, may be required you to send us an affidavit acknowledging receipt of your dividend/proxy and how you acquired the same, as we can not/ will not mail existing records.

Your cooperation is highly appreciated. For any question or clarification, please call Tel. 845-8888 local 2000 or 2005 (PHC).

(PIA-First 24 Hrs/ 3 Mrs 3/9/12)

REINA SENDICA CORK, (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 19 Beech Road, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 9RJ England, who died on 06/February/2012, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before two months from the date of this publication, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

LANGLEYS
Olympic House, Basildon Essex
Ref: Mark E Wills Lincoln LN6 3AE England

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

[illegible] (PIA 1st & 3rd 3/9/12)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit IV
Q. Surigao St., Davao City

Invitation No. 2012-001
Date: March 6, 2012

INVITATION TO BID FOR PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF 400 ROLLS LAMINATED SACK (SMOOTH) AND 400 ROLLS SCREEN NET (BLACK)

The Department of Agriculture RFU-IV, through the ABC=PHP 0 CHECKING amount is eight (8) sets of FG-400 Alternating-use Digestive Budget for the Contract (ABC) to submit sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of **400 rolls Laminated Sack (Smooth) and 400 Rolls Screen Net (Black).** This is open to all interested bidders.

The Department of Agriculture RFU-IV now invites bids for the **Procurement and Delivery of 400 rolls Laminated Sack (Smooth) and 400 Rolls Screen Net (Black).**

DESCRIPTION	ABC
400 Rolls Laminated Sack (Smooth) - Blue and Orange - 2 ft. width x 200m length (per roll) - 60 kgs. (MT 100)	P 1,000,000.00
400 rolls Screen Net (Black) - 2 meters - in width x 100 meters length	

The contracted Sack (Solution) shall be properly identified as per RFU IV with Design (Stripe) as needed.

To be delivered at DAR office, City Agriculture Office and or Use of services if changeable with bigger IU as required.

Delivery of the Goods is required within 45 calendar days upon receipt of the purchase order. **Bidders should have completed a contract similar to the project within the period of three (3) years.** The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/corporations, partnerships or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to the Early participation by Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested Bidder may obtain further information from Department of Agriculture RFU-XI and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours **(8:00 AM – 5:00 PM).**

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on **March 06, 2012** to **March 19, 2012** during working days **(8:00 AM–5:00 PM)** and **March 20, 2012 at 08:00 AM–12:00noon)** from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding documents, in the amount of **Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).**

The Department of Agriculture RFU-XI will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference on March 12, 2012 at 9:00 AM** at the Office of the Regional Executive Director, Davao City which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **March 26, 2012 at 08:00 AM.** All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms.

Bid opening shall be on March 26, 2012 at 9:00 A.M. at DA Conference Room 1 Barangay B., Davao City and may be witnessed by the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Department of Agriculture RFU-XI reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

[illegible]
(PIA – March 09, 2012)

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1/2 Page	P 22,000.00	P 20,000.00	P 18,000.00	P 16,000.00
1 Page	P 44,000.00	P 40,000.00	P 36,000.00	P 32,000.00
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	P 44,000.00	P 40,000.00		
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The Department of Neurology and Psychiatry
University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery
and University of Santo Tomas Hospital

announces with deep sorrow
the passing away of

DR. ARTEMIO T. ORDINARIO
(March 26, 1939 – March 6, 2012)

Founding Member, Philippine Neurological Association
Former Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurology and Psychiatry,
Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Santo Tomas

He joined his Creator on March 6, 2012 at the age of 72.
His remains lie at the Loyola Columbarium at Commonwealth, Quezon City.
Date of interment to be announced.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ATTY. REGULUS ESTANIEL CABOTE

October 16, 1940 – February 19, 2012

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in the countless ways, enabled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

In memory with a picture can be a loving tribute to your departed loved one.

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CLASSIFIEDS

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and submit bid for the following project:

Name of Project/Brief Description:	One (1) lot – Improvements on Leased Property, consisting of Ultimate Expand Shelters, inclusive of Ultimate Expand and Modular Units, per BSP's Terms of Reference
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC):	P12,000,000.00
Contract Period:	One (1) year for maintenance period commencing from date of delivery

Prospective bidders should have established a similar requirement awarded and completed from 2009 to present. Incomplete or late submission shall not be accepted.

Accepted bidder is eligible for Philippine Government Procurement Preference Program (Republic Act 9184) and shall submit the following documents:

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 09 March 2012 (Monday) at 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and until 12:00 noon on 23 March 2012 (Friday) at the Procurement Office, Procurement Department, 2nd Floor, A. Mabini Building, A. Mabini corner F. Ramos St., Manila, Philippines. Non-refundable fee of P5,000.00
2. Pre-Bid Conference	19 March 2012, 2:00 p.m. at the same venue
3. Deadline of Bid Submission	23 March 2012, 12:00 p.m. (NOON)
4. Bid Evaluation	Three (3) days after the deadline of submission of bids
5. Post-Qualification	Three (3) days after the deadline of submission of bids
6. Contract Signing	5 days after receipt of the Notice of Award
7. Notice to Proceed	5 days

The BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to declare the bidding a failure and to reject the contract, or to annul the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders. However, the BSP reserves the right to waive any minor deficiency in the bid and to accept the bid document that is in the best interest of the BSP.

Only bidders who have complied with the bidding requirements shall be allowed to submit a bid and to bidder queries or clarifications.

The BSP reserves its responsibility/obligation to all successful bidders to the extent provided in the procurement of goods.

(Sgd.) EMMANUEL C. DOMINGO
Governor

(PNS – March 9, 2012)

PHILIPPINE INTERNET CONGRESS AND EXPO ON MARCH 9-11

THE PHILIPPINE INTERNET Congress and Expo, a landmark event in the Philippines, will be held on March 9-11 at Shangri-la Mall. Highlighting the latest trends and updates, this great convergence will showcase the new and exciting products and services in the market today by various exhibitors. In addition, a forum will be held on the exhibit area featuring speakers from different companies to talk about the recent internet advancements and how the Philippines will get up to speed on it.

Be amazed by world class technology, internet and mobile applications, latest gadgets, data management, cloud tools, software and programs, online investment system, business solution, cloud storage, data arrangement, video intelligence, IP Telephony and firewall, social media management, discount vouchers, internet security, blogging, and other shocktingly interesting and increasingly useful innovations of internet development.

Join the thousands and thousands of exhibit visitors – businessmen and entrepreneurs, IT professionals, internet marketing freelancers, bloggers, facebook users, and all internet enthusiasts including students in this grand occasion.

With the theme "Turning Up to Speed on World Class Technology", this major event is organized by Pentasian Consulting Group, in cooperation with DTPI, Philippine Info Inquirer, Sun Cellular, Multiply.com, Sulit.com, Mobiloud.com, MWM, Advertising Associates, 99.9FM, Upload, Infocommasia Expo, Job Market, Placethereads, Sportsterra.com, Mobiletrax, Bad Track, Fresh Bonnie, Inside Infotainment, ABC Networks, Groundzero, Gamesville.com, Gogopoint.com, Gamesposse International Institute of Technology, Liquidsoca.com, Mobilefunlight.com, Efotix Inc. & Associates, The Positive Steps, Greymatter Unlimited, Global Filipino, Gamerclub, Bite Manufacturing and Envision, Infotrac, and a lot more.

Feel the sizzling heat for up to date! Don't be left behind on the latest cross platform efficiencies, your friends and relatives as you visit the Philippine Internet Congress and Expo on March 9-11 at SM Megamall Megatrade Hall.

For more information, please call Joyce Randolf at 470-2101, ext 106 or at 0905-2361606 or visit www.internetcongress.ph, com or www.pentasiagroup.com.

SPES, a springboard to a better life

"DID YOU MARK THE 20TH anniversary of the implementation of the Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES), which was first created under Republic Act 7323 on February 5, 1992 and amended under RA 9547 which took effect on April 2009. Under the program, the employers are given incentives by allowing him them to pay 60 % of the student's salaries, while the Department of Labor and Employment pays the remaining 40 percent.

For the past 20 years, the program has helped thousands of poor but deserving students finish their education by facilitating their employment during summer and/or Christmas vacations. Such is the case of the successful SPES beneficiary from Tondo, Manila.

Claudette Bagasin II was 16 years old when his father died. At that time, he was a college freshman at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM). His mom relates that he was not used to the worst older than him, were one in school. Being the only boy in the house of three, he knew that he had to take on the responsibility for dad had left.

Despite the grim future looking ahead with the demise of his father, he never lose sight of his goal to finish college. He believed that education can cast his family from the adversity.

"I badly needed a job during the time, my father were the only bread winner in the family, we have to survive, and surviving means I have to be employed. SPES was an initial step, as a break in life that gave me the opportunity to continue my studies and fulfill a dream of a better life," Gan said.

Interested in this above the difficult circumstances that he and his family were in, Gan juggled between school and work to survive. He worked as a service crew of a popular food chain, and on summer breaks he repeated the work at the Manila City Hall as a SPES beneficiary.

He learned about the SPES program from a schoolmate, who mentioned that the Manila City Government offers summer jobs for poor but deserving students. Without having second thoughts, he went to the Manila City Hall to apply as one of the SPES beneficiaries.

"Grab as many student applicant looking for a summer job and with very limited positions to be filled up, I was just lucky to be hired. I was assigned at the Assessors Department of the Manila City Hall and worked there for two successive summers," he said.

His SPES experience taught him a lot in life. He learned to view things positively despite the loss of his father and the hurdles that he has experience at the Manila City Hall who guided him along the way. "The people I worked with during those two summer breaks greatly influenced how I positively perceive life. With so much pessimism in the family front as we were still mourning and in disarray, what I needed were their words of guidance and encouragement to balance things off. I wouldn't be who I am now, without them guiding me" he said.

These advisers were more than enough to fuel his desire to go on and finish school. He graduated with the degree in Bachelor of Science in Business Management in 2009.

Today, Gan continues to juggle between school and work, but not as a working student anymore, but as an office-based administrator all in the same time.

What keeps him busy in the free time is his civic service activity in Makati City called Pulis Circle Counter Concepts Corporation, which he co-owns; he is also the Vice-President of the Makati Business Club, and a member of the Education Committee of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

In the academe, he is the Department Chairman of the College of Management and Entrepreneurship of the PLM. Gan said what after several years in the business and corporate world, "I felt the need to give back to the school who gave me all the breaks. I am starting now. I set my final goal to PDP to share my business experience to students, who like me, dreams of providing a better future for their family."

With the SPES' own round of graduation and the commencement of the private sector into the SPES program, Gan vows to promote SPES in the business community as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of companies.

Despite the fact that he is now living life the way he planned it to be, Gan knows his feet firmly opposed and teams with pride that his successful gentleman was once a SPES baby.

ONE ALGON PLACE FOUNDATION ATTENDS DOH'S WORKSHOP ON THE PROPOSED EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM FOR ADDICTION PRACTITIONERS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Mr. Rudie and Cel Gonzales of The One Algon Place Foundation attended the Consultative Workshop on the Proposed Equivalency Program for Addiction Practitioners in the Philippines from February 14-17. The event was spearheaded by USEC Permanent Board Member DOH Edgar Galvante and USEC Executive Director DOH Jorge Hernandez, and other officials from Department of Health, The Academy of Hispanic Drug/Alcohol Treatment and Rehabilitation Center & Arcoiris Clinic in Puerto Rico that deals with Alcohol, Drug Dependencies, Bi-Polar Disorder, Schizophrenia and Substance Abuse problems For inquiries, TADP is located at Brgy. Mamatid, Cainpuan, Laguna (02) 584-4181 or (02) 694-2652 / (0917) 553-0438 / (049) 563-2347. Please visit our website at www.onealgonplace.com.ph

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